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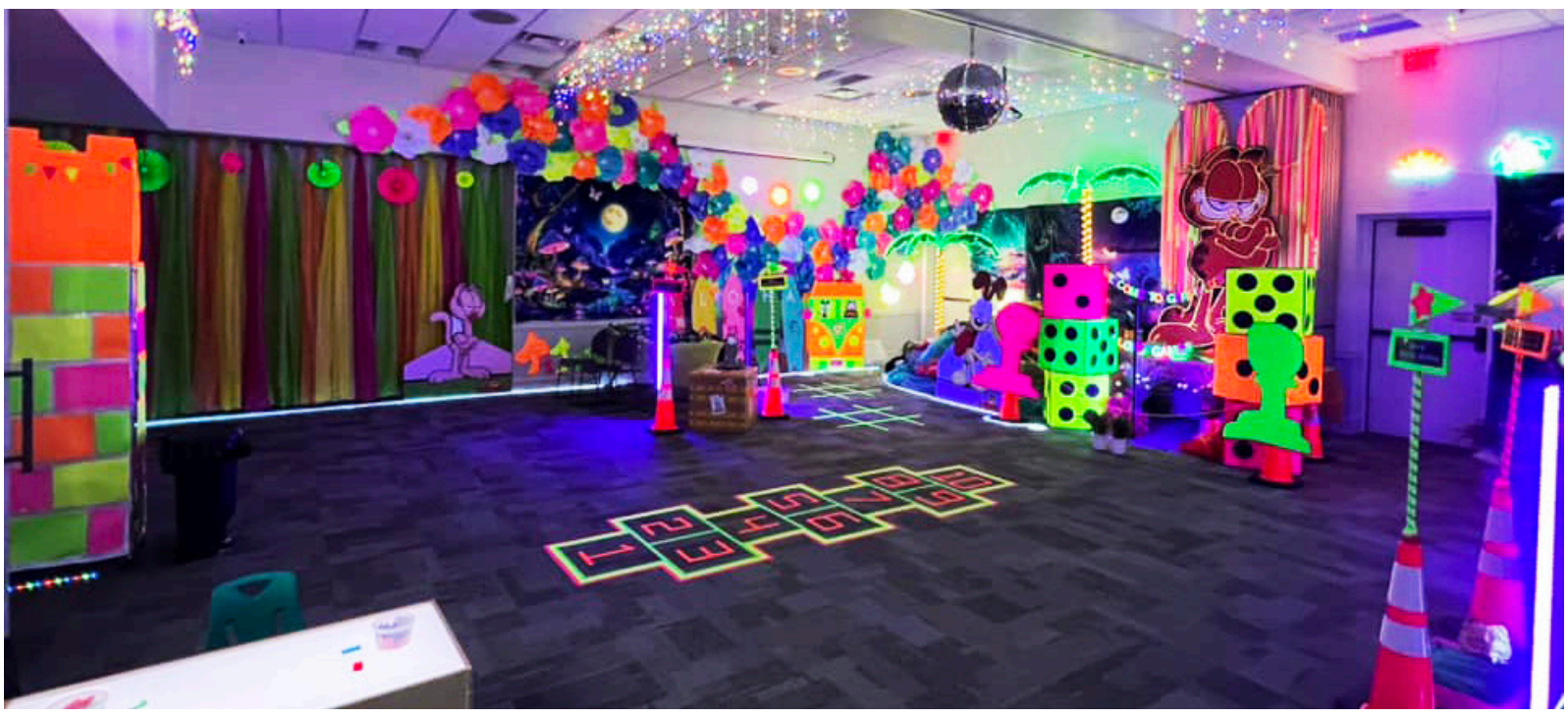
Volume 70, Issue 27 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com Thursday, January 2, 2025

Otsego Library hosts 'Garfield Glow Games' event

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor



The Otsego District Library is hosting its annual early literacy fundraiser. This year's theme is "Garfield Glow Games," featuring everyone's favorite lasagna-eating cat. The event, which is hosted in the program room, runs through Saturday, Jan. 25. (Photos provided)

Since being created by Jim Davis in the mid-1970s, Garfield the cat has become a household name.

Not only did the comic strip that bore his name become the most syndicated strip in the world, but the lasagna-loving feline also starred in several TV specials as well as his own TV show, "Garfield and Friends."

Garfield made the move to the big screen in 2004 with the live-action "Garfield: The Movie," and it's 2006 sequel "Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties," with Bill Murray providing his voice. This past summer, the animated film "The Garfield Movie" hit theaters, with the title cat voiced by Chris Pratt.

And now through Saturday, Jan. 25, fans of all ages have the opportunity to enjoy Garfield up close and personal in the large program room at Otsego District Library.

The event, which is called Garfield's Glow Games, is part of the library's annual early literacy fundraiser. Proceeds will be used to purchase new materials for the library's ever-expanding children's section.

In addition to Garfield, the event also features Garfield's owner Jon and his canine buddy Odie.

"The Otsego District Library is pleased to announce the return of their big early literacy fundraiser event," the library said in a press release. "This winter, the library is celebrating the beloved American comic, Garfield.

"Garfield and his friends will bring you a neon glow adventure with multiple 'glowing' games to play."

Included in those games are Garfield's Flinger Ringer; Jon's Jungle Jenga; Odie's Tic-Tac Toesy; and Arlene's Archery.

There will also be hopscotch, light-table dominoes and a snack shack including play pizza and sandwich shop for the younger patrons.

As was the case last year, the library is asking for a freewill donation to participate in the Garfield fun. All money donated will be used for children's materials.

Otsego Public Library director Andrea Estelle said the early literacy event is always a highlight of the year.

"The Otsego District Library encourages literacy and enjoys putting on this literacy fundraising event each winter to get families excited about reading," Estelle said. "We often see new faces at the library during this event and by coming into play the game, they also explore the library and see all the many resources that the library offers."

The whole family can enjoy exploring Garfield's Glow Games during regular library hours through Jan. 25.

Library hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The library will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, in celebration of New Year's Day.

"The library gets a lot of positive feedback for hosting this event during the dreary winter months when families are looking for something fun to do," Estelle said. "We hope that everyone will invite a friend and come enjoy Garfield's Glow Games at the Otsego District Library."

As is the case each year, the early literacy event is made possible by the contributions of several businesses in the area.

"We really want to note that we are so appreciative to the local businesses in our community that support our efforts to create this fun family event each winter," Estelle said. "This year, we had 22 amazing sponsors."

Serving as sponsors of this year's event are:

Arbor Credit Union
* B & C Trophy and Apparel
* Bishop Construction
* Edward Jones – Ginger Titus
* Esper Electric
* Four Roses
* Friends of the Otsego Library
* Greenridge Realty – Cornell & Associates
* Honor Credit Union
* Kelly Kivell – Berkshire Hathaway Realtor
* Kurt Hatfield, Attorney at Law – PLC
* Lane Family
* Lynx Golf Course,
* MillAssist Services, Inc.
* Old Mill Brewpub & Grill
* Otsego Rotary Club
* Safari Circuits, LLC
* Steve Revor – Berkshire Hathaway Realtor
* TKH Group P.C.
* Tom & Diana Gilmer
* Winkel Funeral Home
* WQXC 100.9 FM

As part of the event, the library also has Garfield books and merchandise for sale.

Photos of Garfield's Glow Games can be seen at the library's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/OtsegoDistrictLibrary.

For more information about the event, contact the library at (269) 964-9690.

Guitar workshop offered at Ransom Library

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Is learning how to play a musical instrument on your list of New Year's resolutions?

If so, then the Ransom District Library just might be the place for you on Mondays beginning Jan. 6.

Library director and former guitar instructor Joe Gross will host a free 12-week introductory guitar workshop. The workshop will run from 4 to 4:45 p.m. each Monday through March 24.

The workshop will focus on the basics of reading music and guitar-playing technique.

"While the lessons will mostly be geared for true beginners, players of most levels can benefit from a concentration on basic music reading, and more advanced concepts will be considered as well," the library said in a release.

Participants are asked to arrive a few minutes early if possible to tune and prepare.

Those wishing to participate are asked to register in advance. To register for the workshop, contact Ransom Library at (269) 685-8024 or visit its website at ransomlibrary.org.

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Between the Buns Competition returns to Wayland

By Gari Voss & Holli McPherson

During January, the Between the Buns Competition encourages residents and visitors to frequent Wayland's local eateries and partake of their special handheld sandwiches.

Executive Director of Wayland's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Holli McPherson shared the news, "Downtown Wayland is hosting the Second Annual Sandwich/Handheld Competition called Between the Buns for the month of January."

While a goal is to spotlight the wonderful restaurants in Wayland, the focus is really on fighting childhood hunger.

"The competition will be from Jan. 1st through 31st with eleven restaurants participating," explained McPherson. "Voting will be open to the public for the month and the top 5 locations will undergo a judication to select the winner."

To facilitate the fun, each location will get punch cards to give out to help guide the consumers around the area and QR code marketing for tables.

Voting is done at https://getfoureyes.com/s/1M54l/ BUT each person can only vote once.

The public can sample the various entries and vote at the Downtown Wayland website, downtownwayland.com/betweenthebuns for their favorite selection. The top 5 finalists will be announced on January 31st and a final vote by judges will take place soon after.

At the end of the month, each business will donate $1 for each handheld sold. The proceeds will be given to the Hand to Hand program which is available in 278 different schools around West Michigan.

For those who missed last year's competition, it is time to fill out your "dance card" to plan which restaurant(s) to choose on which day and time. The variety of handheld offerings is quite unique.

Wayland Big Dipper: Turkey Pesto Panini - Oven-roasted sliced turkey, roasted red peppers, mozzarella cheese, and basil pesto sauce, with a touch of mayo, grilled to a crispy, golden crust. Auction House Cafe: Breakfast Burger - Grilled Sourdough, Hamburger patty, pepper jack cheese, topped with Hash brown Casserole, Bacon, egg, and Onion Rings.

McDuff's Bar and Grille: The Great Loafer - Half pound of grilled meatloaf, pickles, horsey mayo, provolone, on a sun-dried tomato swirl bread, and stacked with crispy onion straws served with a side of chipotle ketchup and choice of fries.

4 One2Distillery: Chicken Bacon Mac Wrap - Fried chicken, bacon and white Cheddar mac and cheese grilled wrap.

Salvinos Wayland: Bruschetta Chicken Sandwich - Sicilian chicken with capicola, mozzarella cheese, bruschetta mix and lettuce and served on a brioche bun with pesto and balsamic glaze. Comes with a side of homemade chips.

Hilliards Corner Lounge: Crispy Chicken Alfredo Parm Sandwich - Crispy chicken smothered in Alfredo sauce, topped with marinara and mozzarella cheese on garlic buttered toast.

Sand Bar and Grill: Fried Green Tomato B.L.T - A southern classic, our classic Fried Green Tomato B.L.T. features crispy fried green tomatoes, smoky bacon, and fresh lettuce, all nestled between slices of artisan Sourdough bread from Nantucket Baking Co.

Russo's Pizzeria (Hopkins and Gun Lake): Russo's Italian Beef Sandwich - Thin tender slices of roast beef simmered in Italian seasoned au jus served on a grilled hoagie bun with provolone cheese then topped with giardiniera along with a side of parmigiana fries.

Curley Cone: Philly Beef Grilled Cheese - Sourdough grilled cheese with roast beef, peppers, and onions topped with American and provolone cheese.

C's Pizza and BBQ: Brisket Sammie - A French Dip's Better with 1/2-Shaved In-House Smoked Brisket, Caramelized Onions, Swiss Cheese & Au Ju to Dip.

Wayland Hotel: Absolute Money - Smoked Burnt End Brisket Sandwich with Hotel special BBQ sauce topped w/your choice of Home Made Cole Slaw or Macaroni n Cheese on a grilled New England bun.

OpenRoad Brewery: Cudighi Sandwich - This Upper Peninsula favorite is made with spicy Italian sausage, Swiss cheese, marinara, sauteed peppers and onions on a toasted French roll.

For additional information, visit https://www.downtownwayland.com/betweenthebuns.

Wayland Main Street Wayland Main Street organizes and implements a holistic revitalization program for Downtown Wayland. Friends and neighbors have pulled together in a grassroots organization powered by community business and property owners, employees, volunteers, residents, and visitors of all ages. They are building legacy by encouraging and catalyzing preservation, investment and development. They are hometown folks celebrating place by bringing people together at special events, promoting awareness and involvement, and instilling pride in Wayland.

5 Generations together for Christmas 2024

Great Great Grandma Betty Gurn of Largo, FL
Great Grandma Donna Brown
Grandma Missy Prichard
Mom Jen Berends
Wade Berends to round out the 5th Generation all of Allegan.

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Call 269-686-5164 to arrange for this service. Please allow 3-5 business days advance notice for scheduling.
If you or a family member is in need of support services please visit: www.allegancounty.org/Referral or call: (269) 673-3333

Fire incidents double, Mahan Park gazebo approved

By Gari Voss

The Allegan City Council held their final meeting of 2024 on Monday, December 23, 2024. As they step from 2024 to 2025, the Brownfield Development Authority Policies and Procedures were approved and an amendment to the contract to 102 Brady, LLC was extended in hopes of finishing the plans for constructing a hotel in Downtown Allegan.

REPORTS

Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Traci Perrigo reviewed that the DDA members gave feedback on the seasonal decorations and felt them to be impactful. The costs were shared, and next year the group would like to continue with this look. The speakers are installed, and music can be heard along the sidewalks. The only negative was from businesses that had a speak pointing right at a business. This will be addressed.

Lot 1 behind Pizza Hut and the Regent Theater was discussed to review the upcoming plan. There would be a designation of no more than three 15-minutes parking spaces.

The Match on Main 2025 will open applications on January 20, 2025, and close on March 7, 2025. The DDA will create a subcommittee to review the applications and recommend two submissions if there are more than two applicants.

Public Spaces Commission

The Commissioners focused on the installation of cameras in the city parks. The Sports Complex was vandalized after dark. Without cameras, it is difficult to identify the perpetrators. Cameras are being explored for the Sports Complex, Jaycee Park and Oakwood Cemetery.

A subcommittee will meet to interview potential arborists to inventory the trees at Oakwood Cemetery.

Allegan Fire District

54 incidents were responded to in October 2024 compared to 26 in 2023. Discussion ensued on the types and manhours involved. 24 incidents occurred in November 2024 vs 34 the year before. Financial discussion regarding things not covered by insurance was had.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

The Authority approved Policies and Procedures and will send them to the City Council for approval. Resolution 24.01to establish a Brownfield Revolving Fund that can be used on other eligible Brownfield projects was approved. An application for the Delano Street units has been received. The group is eager to get started.

The BRA began discussing additional areas where Brownfield Development may take place. With the assistance of City Manager Dye, a list of properties will be compiled and marketed with potential developers.

Finance Department

Accounts Payable & Payroll. The request was passed to approve Accounts Payable in the amount of $330,197.13 and payroll in the amount of $126,670.87 for a total disbursement of $456,868.00.

Mahan Park Gazebo. The request to approve a purchase order for Porter Corporation of Holland, MI for a 28-foot amphitheater for Mahan Park in the amount of $32,270.97 was discussed and approved. The major improvement of Mahan Park during 2025 required the replacement of the gazebo. Working directly with the company from Holland would be physically prudent.

Surplus Items. The request to declare the city's snowmobile and cross-country ski trail groomer as surplus items to be sold at auction was approved. When purchased in 2019, there was more interest in snow events, but the equipment has not been used in a number of years.

City Manager & City Clerk

101 Brady St. The request to approve the 2nd amendment to the Real Estate Purchase agreement between the City of Allegan and 102 Brady, LLC passed. 102 Brady, LLC owns 101 Brady St. with the intention of building a hotel. The financing package is still being negotiated. To avoid the $25,000 in liquid damage before December 31, 2024, the Council felt the extension to Dec. 31, 2027, was appropriate. The city will continue to maintain the piece of property and use it for other activities. If 102 Brady, LLC wishes to sell the property, the city can repurchase it for $10,000.

Brownfield Development. The request to approve the proposed Brownfield Redevelopment Authority policies and procedures passed. Dye reviewed the policies and procedures, plus stressed that the Authority was the final decision maker but the Council must approve financial plans. Included in the document are the revolving loan fund and project application.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Downtown Development Authority. The Council approved the appointment of Lacey Schmitt to the Downtown Development Authority to a term set to expire December 31, 2028.

Planning Commission. The Council approved the appointment of Richard Lewis to the Planning Commission to a term set to expire December 31, 2027.

COMMUNICATIONS

Downtown Manager Parker Johnson shared that Festive Fridays were quite successful with a wonderful parade and about 1000 young people stopping at the library to visit Santa and his live reindeer, plus standing room only in shops to see artists and artisans. The final week filled restaurants and brought favorite food trucks to Locust St. that were happy to return to Downtown.

Happy Holidays were given to all with a special shout out to the city staff, police, fire and first responders.

Final reminder to not miss the New Years Eve celebration downtown along the riverfront. The giant ball will drop at midnight! The new addition this year is the free Ice Skating.

STUDY SESSION

Round Table

Councilmember Will Walker commented on the Christmas Party for city workers at the Griswold. It was a great atmosphere and offered great food.

Patrick Westover noted that there was a segment on the 103.3 website that had a promotion for the Ball Drop.

Amended City Council Rules of Procedure

Joel Dye and Michaela Kleehammer reviewed the Rules and Procedures on how the Council would conduct business. They pointed out several of the minor suggestions:

- The Council would decide when to excuse member absences.
- The process for appointing members to Boards or Commissions was adjusted with the city manager and clerk reviewing requests and vetting the potential members before bringing their recommendations to the Council for approval.
- A none vote to a motion would indicate an affirmative vote.
- Nay votes will be noted in the Minutes.

The changes will be brought to the Council for approval during the first meeting in January, so the councilmembers have time to carefully review the suggested changes. Several council members had concerns about when information packets would be distributed. Usually, packets are available on Thursday or early Friday. If there is an issue, supplemental pieces will be distributed as soon as possible.

Dye suggested that Section C will better specify when community members may step over the line with comments during Public Comments. Though the Council wants to hear concerns from citizens, there are times when comments are directed at a member, and this would not be appropriate.

Review of the Local Purchasing Policy

Discussions have arisen regarding ways for the City seeks vendors for purchases. Currently, there is nothing in the ordinances that would encourage the city staff to purchase from locally owned businesses. The city staff tend to find the least expensive goods. Dye felt this might exclude local businesses. Other municipalities have wording that if a local business is within 1% to 10% of the lowest bid, the vendor's bid could be accepted.

Dye wanted to know if the Council would like to create a policy for using local businesses and what does the Council consider a "local" company? The city must be fiscally responsible while supporting their neighbors.

Thoughts from the members indicated them being in favor of the policy. What is important is looking at Allegan's resources then deciding the amount. Money spent within a municipality has a larger impact on local economics than money spent outside the city or county. Advantages to using local companies for purchases under $1000 can be related to timely replacement plus support if there are problems. Dye felt they could bring back a policy that would support the discussion.

The Mahan Park and parking lot behind the Regent Theater are the next big projects. Bids open on January 8, 2025. Then the question was posed, "Could the limit be moved to $10,000?"

Technology Needs of the City Council

Historically, the city would provide a chrome book for each councilmember for specific city business. The staff would like to update this program so members can view the room monitors on their desks without turning around. Though some members have their own computers, the council shared that they felt the program should continue on an "on needs" basis.

Three boats set on fire at Gun Lake marina

Multiple fire departments responded to a boat fire at an Allegan County marina last Thursday.

It happened at Gun Lake Marina on Patterson Road in Shelbyville, near 124th Avenue.

The fire damaged three boats before being brought under control. Troopers say no one was injured.

Investigators believe the fire was intentionally set. The incident is being treated as a criminal investigation by the Michigan State Police.

No arrests have been made yet.

Troopers say the fire was contained thanks to quick response from Wayland, Orangeville, Martin, and Yankee Springs Fire Departments.

Authorities are asking anyone with information about the incident to contact the MSP Wayland Post at 269-792-2213.

17-year-old dies in house fire

A 17-year-old girl died in an overnight house fire that injured several others.

The victim's name has not been released.

The fire was reported at 1:05 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30, in the 8400 block of Marsh Road in Barry County's Orangeville Township, northeast of Plainwell, Barry County sheriff's deputies said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The victim was found deceased in the house.

Several others were taken to the hospital by ambulance for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, sheriff's deputies said.

Barry County sheriff's deputies were assisted by state police, firefighters from the townships of Orangeville, Prairieville, Gun Plain and Martin and cities of Delton and Hastings, and Wayland Area Emergency Medical Services.

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Community Events

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!
Members of the Eagles: Sun., Jan. 5, 2025, 1pm: @nd Annual J.J. Slagter Memorial Hot Wheels Race
Allegan Eagles 2315 110 Chestnut St. Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Thurs., Jan. 2, 2025, 3:30pm: Will it Waffle?
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
5th-8th graders can enjoy cinnamon rolls on a waffle iron. Register at 269 673-4625.

Fri., Jan. 3, 2025, 6pm: Family Nerf Night
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 3 and up can duke it our in the stacks. Register at 269 673-4625.

Sun., Jan. 5, 2025, 1pm: @nd Annual J.J. Slagter Memorial Hot Wheels Race
Allegan Eagles 2315 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
Hot Wheel racing on the Treetops Raceway Park mobile racetrack for Eagles members. All kids will receive a NEW Hot Wheel to race for the champions trophy. For Info, contact Katrina at 269 330-8034 or katrinahenrickson@gmail.com

Mon., Jan. 6, 2025, 6pm: Teen Game Night
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6th-12th graders can drop in and play an assortment of board, card, and dice games with snacks.

Tues., Jan. 7, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime with Help Me Grow – Learn about "Talking is Teaching" and go home with a free book.
4pm: TAG: Teen Advisory Group – 9th-12th graders are invited to share ideas for library activities.

Wed., Jan. 8, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults – Join friends from The Arc for crafting, playing games, and conversing.
6pm: Wiggle Worms Play 'N Learn – Join in for stories, activities and songs with 0-3 year olds and their siblings.

Thurs., Jan. 9, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime with Help Me Grow - Learn about "Talking is Teaching" and go home with a free book.
6pm: Yoga at the Library - Join local yoga instructor, Hanna Brynn, for a relaxing yoga session at the library. Mats, blocks, and straps will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Register at 269 673-4625.

Mon., Jan. 13, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Messy Munchkins – Ages 0-6 can come in and get messy creating and displaying their artwork.
1pm: Crafts & Snacks – Bring a project and work on whatever while snacking and chatting.
3:30pm: Creature Feature w/ the Kalamazoo Nature Center – All ages can enjoy as the Kalamazoo Nature Center presents a Creature Feature program highlighting different reptiles and amphibian ambassador animals that are found in and around Michigan's rivers and wetlands.

Tues., Jan. 14, 2025: Fun at the Library
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – Children 0-2 can read, sing and learn for fun.
3:30pm: Discover 4-H w/MSU Extension – Ages 5-12 can learn about 4-H and different countries around the world.
6pm: Book & a Movie w/ Friends of the Library – *The Princess Bride* book is available at the library then watch the movie while munching on popcorn.

Wed., Jan. 15, 2025, 9-11am: MACC Annual Meeting
Perrigo Conference Room 490 Eastern Ave. Allegan
Celebrate a year-in-review and hear a presentation from the Office of Rural Prosperity. RSVP by Jan. 6th. at https://allegan.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=1462 or contact Lauren at MACC@alleganfoundation.org

Wed., Jan. 15, 2024: Fun at the Library
Allegan Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Play-Doh Play Lab – Ages 0-7 can create with Play Doh.
6:30pm: Pub Quiz at Tantrick Brewing – At 5:30pm, head to Tantricks and sign up your team. Then prepare to dual.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Locating assistance for the homeless
409 Oaks Crossing, Suite 142, Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Gail Hill – kittygran@gmail.com

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Bridges of Hope, Allegan County - Assistance to move out of poverty
108 E Grant Street, Plainwell, MI 49080, bridgesofhopeallegancounty.org, (269) 204-6041
Foster relationships with individuals desiring to move out of poverty by providing community resources.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - abuse prevention and healing
402 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010
www.safeharborallegan.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon
Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Notice

of Public Hearing
The Residents of Overisel Township
Allegan County, Michigan
County of Allegan, Michigan
A4307 144th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423
Phone: 269 751-7030, Fax: 269 751-5405

property of Austin Schild
3882 Preserve Dr.
Hamilton, MI 49419

Notice of Public hearing before the Overisel Township Appeal Board on Monday January 20, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Overisel Township Hall A-4307, 144th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423 to consider the following matter:

At the request by Austin Schild he would like a variance of side yard setback of 20' to 10' a 10' variance.

Written Comments will be received concerning these requests at the Overisel Township Office through 5pm the date of the hearing or may be emailed to the Overisel Township ZBA chairman at windegw@gmail.com.

Any other questions or concerns can be called into at the Overisel Township Office at 269 751-7030

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- Vaccinate against Lyme and Leptospirosis yearly.
- Use flea, tick, and heartworm prevention year round.

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www.allegananimalclinic.com

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737

Friday, Jan. 3 - Thursday, Jan. 9
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
DAILY SPECIALS
Mondays - 2-for-1 Admission • Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
FLASHBACK FRIDAY! Sponsored by Allegan District Library
Scott Pilgrim vs The World (2010) • Dec. 27 @ 9:30pm • $5

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Pullman has major facelift in 2024

By Gari Voss

MFS RealPlay offered families, friends and individuals a fun place to go to enjoy games, music and camaraderie in Pullman, so people did not have to drive far for a night out.

The sleepy village of Pullman has taken on a new look over the last couple of years. Beautify Pullman has taken the lead with improvement grants that add additional streetside foliage, a historical mural, and a Town Square complete with a train for kids to climb, a children's wall and pavilion.

In collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and passionate individuals, a memorial was added to the Town Square that honors those from Pullman who defended their country.

The volunteers and residents of Pullman did not sit back on their laurels during 2024. In January, they welcomed Amber Mortensen to Pullman Elementary when their former principal, Melissa Corona, accepted a position at the Van Buren ISD as Director of Instructional Services. This has been an important link in the community along with People Helping People that continued to support the community with the Linking Center and Worship Center. Pullman's children and families flourish through the work of volunteers.

After much networking, March brought a free public WiFi hotspot to the Pullman Town Square. This brought addition traffic as residents enjoyed the Square while catching up on their computers and phones.

At the end of May, the Memorial Day festivities included a flag raising at Pullman Town Square, a free community picnic, the annual Memorial Day parade sponsored by Pullman VFW Post 6134, and a Memorial Service held at Lee Township Cemetery. This has become an annual event, and each year brings a few surprises and lots of good food.

June kicked off the weekly Pullman Summer Concerts Series with a local favorite, The Black River Band. Families and individuals could bring their picnics and enjoy some food on the Square. Through June, July and August, visitors enjoyed Lynn & the Moonshine Runners, Michael & Sophia McIntosh, McKinney & Brown, Michael Mulett, the Jimmy Savage Band, the Kevin McDaniel House Band, Descarga Musical, Life Bait and the Perfect Storm.

Also beginning in June came the Farmers Market at Pullman. The Market opened each Thursday in the Pullman Town square and featured produce, eggs, cider, bakery goods, and crafts. Frequently on the Square were Country Roads Kettle Corn, Wiley Rooster Farm & Greenhouse, Bluegold Regenerative Organics, Jeni's Sweet Tooth Bakery, Overhiser Orchards, Down Home Farm Eggs, Country Life Natural Foods, and Pullman Pie Company. Visitors could get information from Lake Michigan College and Meals on Wheels while listening to live music by Panda Pete and enjoying complimentary coffee, lemonade, and hot dogs.

July 4th, the annual Pullman Pride Day celebration raised over $3000 for the Dee Wesbey Pullman Pride Scholarship fund. The day featured a pancake breakfast, the 3rd Annual Pullman car show, a craft fair, Pullman History Museum tours, a senior lunch, a cornhole tournament, and a concert by the Jimmy Savage Band. The streets and square were rocking!

The Square may have seemed a little quiet at times, but the MFS RealPlay Arena was beginning to attract families and individuals for "electrifying activities, including family game tournaments, karaoke showdowns, live music events, and more." Daniel Tood believed it was time for Pullman to have a family fun place, so he built it. Holidays are always special, while he took time to have a Walk-a-Thon and to earn money for those who suffer from addictions. As 2024 ends and 2025 begins, Daniel and the gang will have more opportunities for the Pullman community while offering a place to have private birthday parties and gatherings.

Beautify Pullman rolled out the red carpet in October for a Bicycle Rodeo event that combined teaching bicycle safety with fun. Bicycle tune-ups were offered, and free helmets were given to all children who participated. The community became more bicycle-friendly with the installation of a bicycle fix-it station, and bicycle racks in downtown Pullman.

Over two weeks at the beginning of November, 14 trees were planted in downtown Pullman to replace trees lost during roadwork and to add shade to the Pullman Town Square. The town is grateful for the generosity of the Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation that gave a grant to replace trees on 56th street and 109th avenue. Also, thanks to Ron and Sue Barrett for the donation of trees and of equipment and labor to plant the trees. Finally, thanks to Kathy Burczak of Abonmarche Consultants and Dan Pastoor of Twin Lakes Nursery for assistance in choosing trees that will thrive.

In December, over 400 neighbors gathered in Pullman for the ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL. All received a hot meal of ham or roast beef, sides and desserts. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a fire truck with gifts for children ages 12 and under.

The leadership around Pullman keeps looking forward. During 2024, a grant allowed the community to solicit the talents of Abonmarche to evaluate the area and begin the process of creating a Placemaking and Connectivity Plan. The group also looked at creating Safe Routes to School (SRTS). After hours of examining possible paths to school, the store, the health clinic, etc., the Abonmarche team was able to present their findings to the Beautify Pullman Board and other community leaders.

There is still much to do before the goals of the groups supporting the Pullman populations come to fruition. It will require one step at a time, and lots of moxie to keep reaching forward.

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Dorr Township Meetings

2025 DORR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES
Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Dorr Township Complex.
January 23
February 27
March 20
April 24
May 22
June 26
July 24
August 28
September 25
October 23
November 20
December 18

2025 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATES
The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Complex.
January 21
February 18
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 17
July 15
August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16

2025 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING DATES
The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Complex.
March 5
June 4
September 3
December 3

2025 DDA MEETING DATES
The meetings start at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Complex.
January 13
March 10
May 12
July 14
September 8
November 10

2025 PARKS COMMISSION MEETING DATES
The meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at the North Park Pavilion.
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11
September 8
October 13
November 10

2025 BOARD OF RVIEW MEETING DATES
March 4th at 11am
March 11th from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. You can meet with the Board of Review by calling
616-681-9874 to make an appointment, or you can protest your assessment by letter.
March 12th from 2pm to 5pm and 6pm to 9pm. You can meet with the Board of Review by calling
616-681-9874 to make an appointment, or you can protest your assessment by letter.
July - TBD
December – TBD

2025 CITIZENS ROAD COMMITTEE MEETING DATES
Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Dorr Township Complex
January 8
April 9
July 9
October 8

THE MICHIGAN WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM: PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER

IMPORTANCE OF GROUNDWATER

In the United States, groundwater is the source of drinking water for half of the total population and 95% of the rural population. Groundwater is also used for raising livestock, agriculture, and industry. Within Michigan, approximately 50% of the population relies on groundwater to supply their drinking water needs. Community drinking water systems are at risk from many possible contamination sources and no community wants to face the loss of its drinking water.

In an effort to protect this valuable resource, the State of Michigan established the Michigan Wellhead Protection Program (WHPP). This program is a voluntary program for communities that use groundwater to supply their wells.

WHAT IS THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAM?

First, it is important to determine the area which contributes groundwater to the public water wells. Communities will hire a consulting firm to do a thorough review of the groundwater that is supplying the drinking water wells. This study will determine how fast the groundwater is flowing and in what direction the groundwater is flowing. This area is called the **Wellhead Protection Area** (WHPA). An example of a WHPA is included. At the edge of this area, it would take ten years for contamination to reach the community wells. This is the area that communities will manage and protect. Steps to manage and protect this area include:

1. ESTABLISH A TEAM – Identify people that play an important role in groundwater protection. Examples: managers, water superintendents, zoning administrators, teachers, fire department officials, business leaders, farmers and residents.
2. CONTAMINANT SOURCE INVENTORY – Identify known and potential sites of contamination within the WHPA and include in a contaminant source inventory list and map.
3. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES – Provide mechanisms that will reduce the risk of contamination. Examples: plugging abandoned wells and implementing zoning ordinances.
4. CONTINGENCY PLANNING – Develop a contingency plan in case of a water emergency.
5. PLAN FOR NEW WELLS – Provide information on existing groundwater availability, the need for new wells and the vulnerability of the existing wells to contamination.
6. PUBLIC EDUCATION – Educate the public about drinking water protection through brochures, placemats, presentations, newsletters and other educational activities.

Dose of DOGE needed to curb government spending

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Maybe DOGE has a good thing going. DOGE, the acronym for Trump's new Department of Government Efficiency headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, has been charged with eliminating waste and inefficiency at the federal government level.

I have been a big proponent of eliminating government waste, and like the last few years, I would like to tell you about several wasteful programs as outlined by Sen. Rand Paul in his annual Festivus Report. The report is 41 pages long and provides us with a whopping $1 trillion plus in government waste.

Here are a few of the highlights:

• DOGE talks a lot about empty government buildings. Sen. Paul claims the federal government spent over $10 billion in 2024 maintaining, leasing and furnishing these entirely empty buildings.

• Many businesses received pandemic funding from the federal government. Many smaller businesses did not. I received a small amount but was told I couldn't get more because the fund was depleted. Here's one reason why. A Florida man stole $8 million in COVID relief funds to buy his own private island. A failing trucking company received a $7 million COVID grant.

• Unbelievably the Department of Health and Human Services spent $420,000 to study if lonely rats seek cocaine more than happy rats.

• The Department of State awarded $2.1 million to Paraguay for border security. I find that strange. We don't much care if our border is secure, but we will fork over money to secure an obscure South American country's border.

• Speaking of other countries, the Department of Agriculture is spending $20 million to advance the use of fertilizer in Pakistan, Vietnam, Colombia and Brazil.

• Elsewhere abroad, the Agency for International Development is spending $20 million on creating a new Sesame Street show for Iraqi children.

• American taxpayers have provided $174 billion in aid and military assistance to Ukraine, however the Department of State felt it was a brilliant idea to drop an additional $4.8 million to the influencers it KYIV, Ukraine public affairs. Now we can view more Ukrainian propaganda on Instagram and Tik Tok.

• Again, from the endless coffers of the State Department, they doled out $3 million to a girl-centered climate action organization in Brazil.

• Since 2022, Dr. Fauci, longtime leader of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases approved a 2.24 million grant to study whether cats can contract and transmit COVID-19. The answer was "yes," and those that were infected were slaughtered.

• Cats and experiments seem to be synonymous. Nearly $11 million was spent by the Department of Defense funneled to the University of Pittsburg to force the felines to defecate marbles via electric shock.

• It's only $10,000, but its still our money, and the National Endowment of the Arts, awarded it to the Bearded Ladies Cabaret so that they could perform a cabaret show on ice skates focused on climate change.

• Of course, the biggest waste of money is the interest we are paying each year to support our national debt. Would you believe $892 billion? Next year we are expected to hit the trillion mark and in 10 years we will be at $1.7 trillion. That's just interest, folks. And you complain about your credit card interest? At least you are somewhat fiscally responsible. Those that distribute our tax monies have been irresponsible for decades.

I believe a dose of DOGE is just what the doctor ordered. Hopefully they can complete their mission.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

Another column in the paper is the result of asking people in the area about their New Year's Resolution. It is an old tradition many of us still follow, even if we are already sure that we will shatter most of them by the end of the first week or two.

A few years ago I talked with the owner of a gymnasium, and she said that many people receive a membership as a Christmas gift. On January 2, the place is full because people made a firm resolution to get into shape. They promised themselves and perhaps others, that they were going to have a routine exercise regimen. Before the month is over it is beginning to empty out. She thought people were quitting because they wanted instant gratification of better health and a better body. They had not seen any, or at least not sufficient progress, after just a few weeks. They called it quits.

We have become very accustomed to instant gratification that ranges from prepared meals to be heated in the oven or microwave, to ordering a product on-line and having it delivered in a matter of days. Instant gratification works for some things, but not all of them.

That probably applies to most of our resolutions. It can be frustrating and take far more time than we initially thought.

She might be right, but I think there is more to it than that. Most of us use another person as a justification for doing something we don't really want to do. We might say, "I'll get a second job or take all the over-time I can get so the kids can go to college, my spouse can have some better things." "I'll go to the gym to get in shape so I'll look better when my significant other and I are out in public." Perhaps we justify it by saying they need us to be around for a while longer.

There is nothing wrong with justifications to inspire us. Sometimes having a truly good and worthy justification is a great incentive. However, we can take it too far.

That is where we run into another challenge. Many of us find it hard to do something for ourselves. It seems too selfish, and we think we ought to be doing something for others. We have a twinge of guilt taking time away from them while doing something just for ourselves. Or, at the very least, feeling guilty about not doing something productive. In a word, "Nuts!" to that sort of thinking. We need to have time, things, and activities of our own. Fortunately, there are some wonderful examples in our world.

I believe I have told the story of Ed Gardiner from Greenbank, West Virginia. He spent his career working for the radio observatory there until he retired. He never mentioned it, but he had always wanted to play the banjo, but never felt he had the free time to do it. One day he ran into Dwight Dillard, a member of a bluegrass band best known as the Darlings from the old Andy Griffith Show. He told Dwight of his interest, and together they bought a banjo for him, and he took lessons. It wasn't long before Ed was very literally having the time of his life jamming with the Dillards. Several times he played the music for a Sunday service I hosted on the Mountain Radio PBS affiliate. I told him the next stop was the Grand Ol' Opry. He smiled and said he would like to audition for them.

Or, my father who had worked his entire life, retired, and within days was bored with twice-a-day coffee with "the boys" who also were retired. He nearly climbed the walls after a few sessions with another group of fellows who constantly grumbled their health. "Organ recitals" he called it and said he wasn't going to waste his time complaining. He decided to teach himself wood carving and became quite good at it. He built grandfather clocks and muzzle-loading rifles. In his 80s, he started to paint, learning from the Bob Ross television show on PBS. His first paintings were atrocious, but he stayed with it and the latter ones were displayed at the local museum.

For both of these men, part of each day was "their time," and by claiming it they were able to grow and learn new skills. More importantly, they felt good about it. That lesson applies to all of us. Most important of all: We do not need to wait until retirement to do this.

We can turn our New Years Resolutions into accomplishment. The two words come from President Theodore Roosevelt: "Get action!" Three words, this time from Winston Churchill, give us complete instructions: "Action This Day!" He had a rubber stamp with red ink, and would slam it down on reports and documents that had the highest priority. His aides hated it, but he accomplished his great goal of defeating the Bavarian corporal.

The first step was to make your resolution; the second, to get into motion. The third challenge is how to do it. For that we turn back a century and a quarter to a highly successful financier who made Andrew Carnegie the world's first billionaire. His name was Charles Schwab and is not the Charles Schwab of the modern brokerage firm.

Schwab was once asked how he could accomplish so much in life when he had so many things to do. He said that he prioritized six things for each day. Like him, we must decide what are the six most important things we want to accomplish before we slide between the sheets. We list them, and do them first.

From there we go to the proverbial bonus round where we start knocking other things off of our 'to do list.' We start breaking down an impossibly crowded list of projects into smaller and more manageable pieces. Most importantly of all, we feel great about our life as the list shortens.

Living an intentional life is essential to our well-being. Without it, it is far too easy to settle into our favorite chair, watch the Big Pharma and Big Insurance commercials that are interspersed with snippets of news. After that we remain motionless for the game shows, reality shows, and mindless comedies or police shows on television. By the time you go to bed, the odds are high that you won't remember any of it. Now do that every night from now until December 31st 2025, and you won't have much to show for the year. Before we know it, the year becomes a decade, and one day we run out of time. The same principle applies to almost all social media platforms, too.

Time to take another look at those Resolutions and figure out how you are going to make them happen. Have a bit of fun with this. While others are moaning about an ingrown toe-nail or in a snit about how television isn't nearly as good as it was "back in the day," confuse and bewilder them. Go live your life and accomplish something you truly enjoy. Make them a little jealous.

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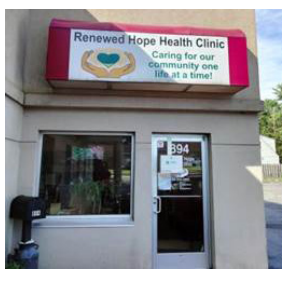
• Referral to specialists where indicated
• Assistance in applying for state and/or federal benefits



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The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $40 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $55 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

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P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $40 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $55 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

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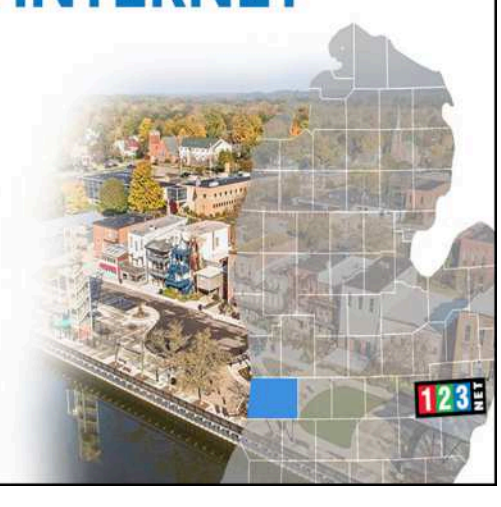

Obituaries

Katherine Harrison, 59

Katherine passed away, Saturday, December 21, 2024, at her home in Allegan. She was born on August 12, 1965, in Plainwell, the daughter of Carl and Marie (Opperman) Petersen. Over the years Katherine worked at many area factories. In her free time, she enjoyed painting and doing artwork.

On February 17, 1989, in Allegan, she married Terry Harrison who survives. Also surviving are her son, Ken Harrison of Allegan, brother Pete (Judy Beth) Petersen along with 2 nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and sisters, Linda Lou Petersen and Judy Petersen. According to her wishes cremation has taken place. A celebration of Katherine's life will be held in the spring. Contributions in memory of Katherine may be directed to the American Cancer Society. Messages of condolence may be posted at www.WinkelFuneralHome.com.

Neil Girke, 83

Neil Girke, age 83 of Gobles, passed away Friday, December 27, 2024 at the Wings Home in Allegan with very loving care and has gone on to be with our Lord.

He loved fishing, hunting, golf and singing hymns and songs of the 50's.

Surviving is his wife of 64 years, Doreen of Gobles; 2 sons, Dale (Julie) Girke and Troy (Anna) Girke;

3 granddaughters, Alexis Girke of CA, Chalice (Jason) Lumbert and Alyssa (Robert) Montague; a great grandson, Ryan; a nephew, Doug (Sharon) Girke, family of Jason Mixon in CA.

Neil Girke

Following his wishes cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to either the Oak Grove Bible Church or the Wings Home, Allegan.

Arrangements entrusted to the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com.

Donald Huff

Donald Huff passed peacefully on December 21, 2024 surrounded by his family. He was born in Kalamazoo, MI to Louise (Jones) and Claude Huff.

Don's elementary years were spent at the Foster and Clifford Schools before graduating at 16 from Allegan High School in 1947. His first college experience was at Emanuel Missionary College where he met his future wife, Beverly McNeal. They were married in 1951. Don then moved on to Western Michigan University, graduating with his B.A. in psychology in 1954.

After working ten plus years at the Kalamazoo State Hospital, he moved to the Michigan Employment Security Commission in South Haven. During that time he returned to WMU, earning his Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1969.

He then worked for the Bureau Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation in Grand Rapids, Wyoming and Holland Offices. After retirement at the age of 52, Don went on to other involvements, including becoming the Project Coordinator for the Pine Lake Project at Pine Lake Technical Institute, Vocational Expert at the Social Security Administration, President of Michigan Rehabilitation Association, serving on the Board of Directors of the National Rehabilitation Association, Board of Directors of the Private Industry Council, and Board of Directors for the Allegan, Muskegon and Ottawa Substance Abuse Agency, and becoming the Flotilla Commander of the Holland Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Donald Huff

Some of Don's other interests include his passion for sailing – crewing on a friend's boat several times for the Chicago to Mackinaw Race. He had two catamaran day sailers that he enjoyed for several years, as well as crewing for a small group of friends on extended trips.

He was proud of his gardens, his books, his movie and music collections. He and Beverly traveled extensively after retirements, abroad and in the US. Opera was another keen interest. Don and Beverly attended operas in Chicago for several years. He loved music – classical, jazz, folk and bluegrass especially.

In later years he enjoyed cutting wood for the wood stove, family occasions and relaxing in his chair near the stove and watching nature. He always loved and appreciated visits from family and friends. His family meant everything to him.

Preceding Don in death were his parents and two sisters, Eleanor Nielsen and Carolyn Himmelein.

Surviving are his wife of 73 years, Beverly Huff; children, Devryn (Ray) Farnum, Brenda Huff, Erica Huff (Mike Bergholtz) and Kevin (Susan) Huff; and grandchildren, Ravyn Schneider (Scott Wagar), Dyrena (Dennis) Warner, Lydia Huff and Sander Huff. He left many great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter and many nieces and nephews to remember and appreciate him.

A visitation with family and friends will be held on January 6, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon with a memorial service beginning at 12:00 PM at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Wings of Hope Hospice, 530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010.

Kevin Gene Krotz, 64

Kevin Gene Krotz, 64, of Hopkins, MI passed away Saturday, December 21, 2024 at University of Michigan Health West. Born April 20, 1960 in Allegan, he was the son of the late Robert and Geraldine Louise (Grauman) Krotz. Kevin had worked for Sebright Products as a welder for many years. He was truly talented when it came to working with his hands and had a particular knack for the art of stainless-steel fabrication. Kevin loved a challenge and could build just about anything, even complicated machinery. His skills allowed him to often travel for his work, which he enjoyed greatly. At a young age, Kevin earned his solo private pilot's license which allowed him to fly small aircraft. He also developed the skillset needed to visually inspect airplanes to determine if they were suitable for flight. Kevin also had worked as a bartender and French waiter at Bay Point Inn in Gun Lake where he made many friends and memories. He looked forward to Thursday mornings when he would meet up with his Breakfast Club buddies, including his brother, Roger, cousin, Richard, and friends, Gerry and Tim. Kevin loved to spend time with everyone at the lake fishing, camping and having a biggest bonfire competition with the Weicks from across the lake. He will be remembered as a caring and devoted father, grandfather, brother, friend and very special person to many people and is already greatly missed.

Kevin Gene Krotz

Kevin is survived by his sons, Andrew Krotz (Autumn Bivins), Marty (Lydia) Krotz and Travis Carr; brother, Roger (Kelly) Krotz; grandchildren, Saylor and Lucia; his friend and the mother of his children, Linda Krotz; many nieces and nephews; and special cousin, Richard Krotz. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Wayne Krotz and David Krotz.

The family will receive friends at Hopkins Community Church on Monday, December 30, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. A funeral service will begin at 1:00 PM. Kevin will be laid to rest following the funeral service in Maplewood Cemetery.

Sidney Leroy Carns, 89

Sidney Leroy Carns passed away peacefully on December 26, 2024, at the age of 89, in Portage, Michigan. Born on August 13, 1935, in Allegan, Michigan, he was a cherished son to the late James and Bertha Carns. Sidney's formative years were shared with his beloved siblings: his brother Roger Carns, sisters Ires June Carns (deceased as an infant) and Marilyn Ely, who predeceased him, and his sister Irene Waanders, who remains to honor his memory.

After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from Michigan State University, Sidney had an illustrious career as an executive at Rockwell International. He was a brilliant mind in his field, credited with holding multiple patents that advanced the manufacturing technology of their time.

Sidney met the love of his life, Mary Ann, and together they raised two wonderful children, Nancy, married to Mark Scafaria, and Steve Carns. He was blessed with the joy of watching his granddaughters, Melissa, Hannah, and Stephanie Scafaria, and granddaughter Sidonia Carns, grow up, guiding them with the same integrity and intellect he was known for. Sidney took immense pleasure in seeing the tradition of academic excellence continue as both his son and granddaughter followed in his footsteps to Michigan State University.

Sidney Leroy Carns

A dedicated family man, Sidney's presence was a source of strength and inspiration for his loved ones. His interests were a reflection of the man he was—committed, passionate, and steadfast. He loved his farm, his horses and agriculture, a passion from his boyhood experiences and experiences at MSU. As a diehard Spartans fan, he spent many days cheering on his team, relishing both the victories and the shared experiences with his family.

Associates and friends remember Sidney as an intelligent man, one whose advice was often sought for its wisdom and clarity. His knack for problem-solving paralleled his ability to navigate life's complexities with grace and composure.

Sidney's profound legacy is mirrored in the lives of those he touched—through his career, his inventions, his love for Michigan State athletics, and most importantly, through his role as a husband, father, and grandfather. He approached every facet of life with a sense of purpose, and his achievements stand as a testament to a life well-lived and well-loved.

As his family takes solace in a lifetime of cherished memories, they celebrate Sidney's remarkable journey—a narrative of resilience, intellect, and unwavering love. His spirit will continue to guide us through the lessons he taught and the stories he left behind. Sidney Leroy Carns will be deeply missed by all who knew him, yet his influence will endure timelessly within the hearts of his family and the many lives he touched.

Sidney's Memorial Service will be held at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, Saturday, January 4th, at 11:00am with an hour visitation beforehand. Graveside service to follow at Hudson Corners Cemetery.

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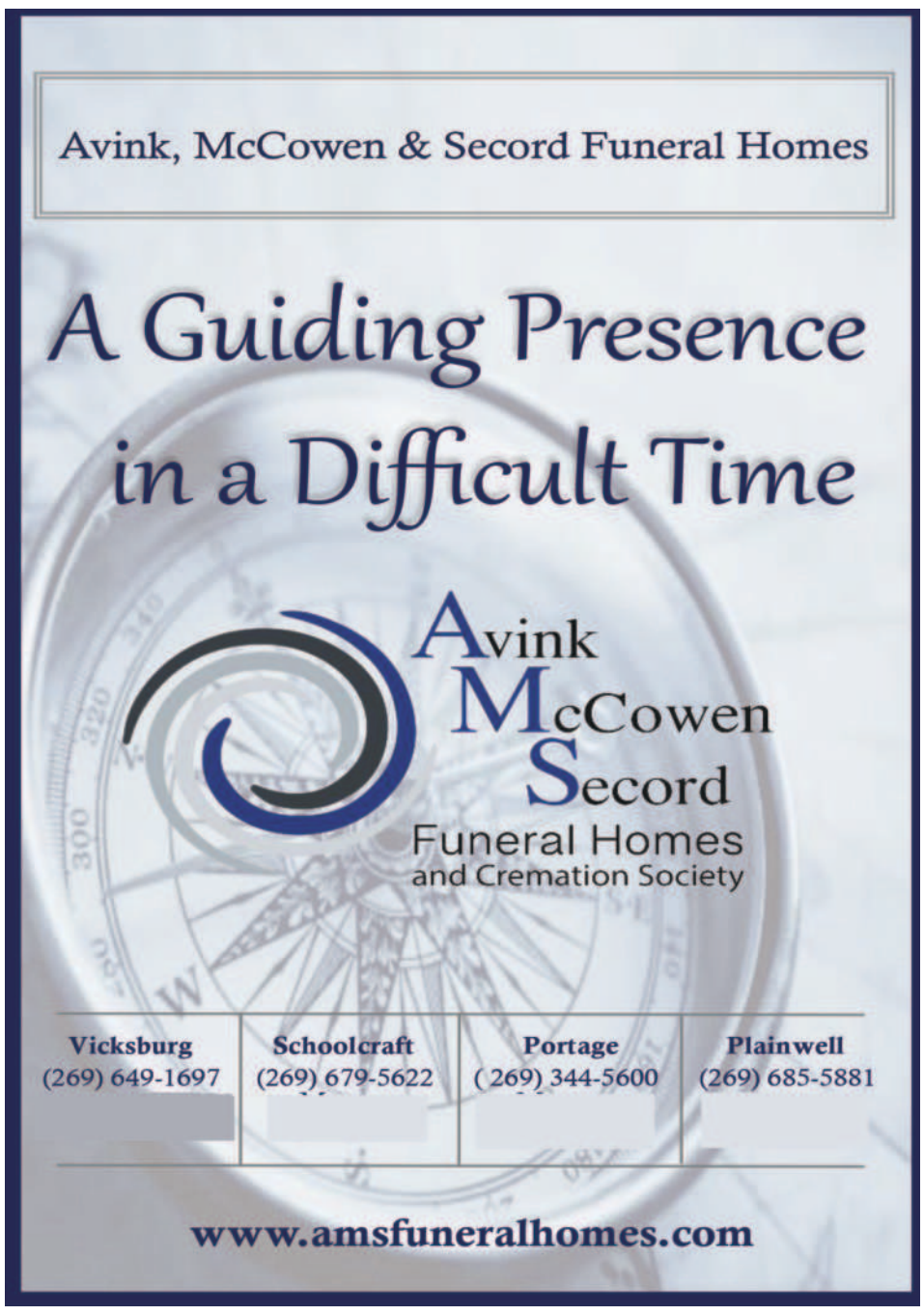


City gives snow-removal reminder

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The holidays were largely free from snow this year, giving folks a break from shoveling, snow blowing and plowing.

But more snow will surely fall before spring arrives, and officials from the City of Plainwell want to remind residents of the importance of proper snow removal.

That includes not plowing snow into or across a street.

"Please keep (the snow) on the lot it falls upon," the city said in a statement. "Hard-packed snow in the street could spin a vehicle out of control, potentially injuring someone."

Business owners are reminded that they are responsible for the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property.

Residents should also make it a point to keep the sidewalk in front of their homes clear of snow and ice so pedestrians aren't forced to use the street.

Goodbye 2024... Hello 2025!

By Cindy Sasser

When I think about moving forward into 2025, that old 1968 song by Tommy James & The Shondells plays in my mind…

"Look over yonder... what do you see
The sun is a risin'... most definitely
A new day is comin'... people are changin'
Ain't it beautiful... crystal blue persuasion

Those lyrics are about rising out of darkness …despite what some *Breaking Bad* fans may believe. Someone said that song is "an anthem for a generation seeking positivity."

There's a lot of us seeking positivity. The promise of this new year feels like a door flung open to a blue sky and a gust of fresh clean air!

If you're anything like me, you're ready to peel off 2024 like a straight jacket, slam it onto the ground and run screaming down the road.

Maybe that's a bit extreme, but for me, 2024 was a bleak year. And "bleak" is putting it lightly.

My boss died suddenly, my company closed and I lost my job. It took a year and eight days to start working in my profession again. And that's absolutely not for lack of trying.

But I knew there'd have to be a light at the end of that tunnel and it's there now. I'm excited to finally emerge on the other side.

I found that I'm not alone in that respect. I reached out to see what people in Allegan County felt about the new year and the old year.

I was hoping they were feeling hopeful, positive and excited. I was happy to hear that even though a few people had a rough 2024, they felt really good about the coming new year.

Lori from Otsego says it well and I admire her candor tremendously.

"We've gotten through Covid," she said. "We've gotten through Biden and a near miss of Kamala. We've literally rounded the corner of the traffic circle, so I'm thinking very positively. God is in control and in the words of the great philosopher Mr. Marley, "Every little thing gonna be alright"."

I'm with Lori and feeling really good about things to come. I have to say I'm also thrilled to be past the ugliest, most exhausting, election year I've ever experienced in my life. Does anyone remember one worse?

That's a relief in itself. I just want to say that I realize there are about 75 million angry, disappointed and worried Americans right now and I don't want to discount them; a few are my family and I love them. But I know they're "gonna be alright."

I think the next verse of the song applies here…

"Better get ready… gonna see the light
Love, love is the answer… and that's all right
So don't you give up now… so easy to find
Just look to your soul… and open your mind"

What I'm personally hoping for is that the separation we've experienced in 2024 can be mended. We've had division on so many levels; like an earth fissure that damages everything around it.

Any kind of collective energy changes our trajectory as a whole. That's how prayers work. What you project is what you get. Be careful and kind … what we feel has a ripple effect.

We're also seeing a collective financial positivity reflected in real estate; a great barometer. As a real estate professional I keep an eye on the market and was excited to see an article from *Realtor Magazine* showing a recent increase in home buying. It seems confidence is rising. The title read: "*Home Sales Take Significant Leap in November"*

"Momentum is building in the real estate market as improving economic conditions encourage home buyers to make a move."

Good people of Allegan County have told me of many things they anticipate for 2025: new grand babies, hope for better health and peace and some just happy to be alive. What we all share is the excitement and the promise of the new year.

While 2024 wasn't all bad for some and may have been great for many, it's time to give it a hug and say goodbye.

Toni from Otsego says …

"I will open the door at midnight to let the old go and let the new year in. No more sweating the small things. Life's too short."

Otsego discusses ARPA funds

By John Raffel
Correspondent

OTSEGO — The Otsego Township Board noted at its recent meeting the ARPA funds need to be readdressed as they are not considered designated yet.

The board discussed what needs to be done to make sure they are all designated before the end of 2024 so that the funds are not lost. Clerk Colin will get a solid number for the board.

A work order is for work that is planned for 2026, however the road commission is requesting that the township approve this work order so they can get the engineering started and figure out how much it will cost. This is for 24th Street which is shared by Otsego, Allegan, Watson, and Trowbridge Tow.

Supervisor Winn updated the board on the Hazelwood water project status which is complete. There was a final meeting in that area to determine what fixes need to be addressed. The project is under warranty for 1 year. Treasurer Lunarde-Alexander explained that Invoice Cloud has been very nonresponsive to her as far as getting a number to exit the contract we signed with them. She has found an alternative that costs less and is more efficient that she would like to go with but cannot do anything without getting out of the current contract with Invoice Cloud. Supervisor Winn asked the township's lawyer to send a letter to Invoice Cloud so that we could have a response.

Plainwell board members terms expire

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL — Clerk JoAnn Leonard stated that several Plainwell City board members' terms end December 31, 2024. She confirmed that these candidates, Rachel Colingsworth (Planning Commission) and Cathy Green (DDA/BRA/TIFA) were willing to serve another term.

She welcomed newly appointed Planning Commiasion member Paul Grimm, who is finishing the remainder of a partial term which ends on June of 2025.

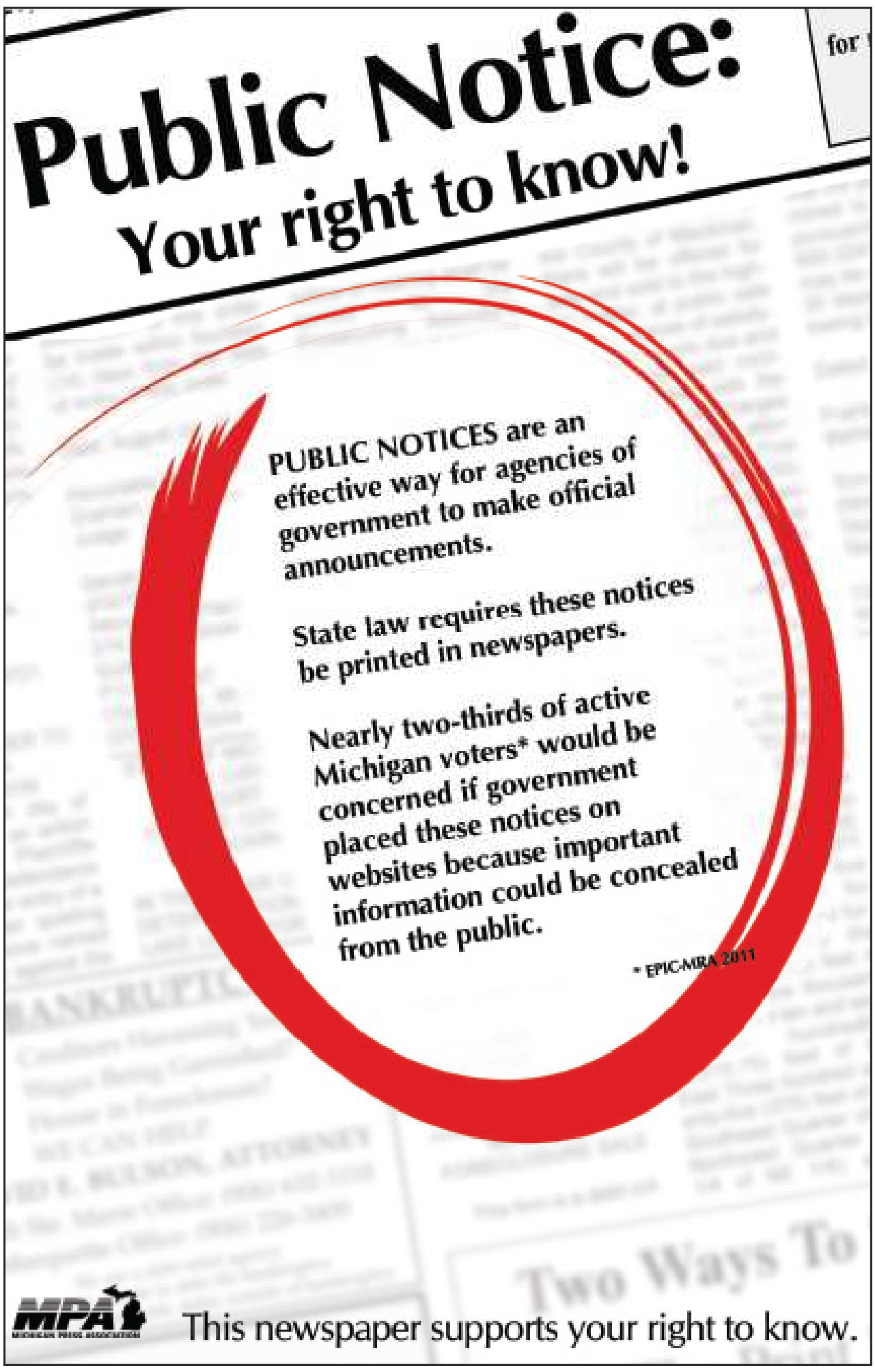
The City is currently accepting applications for two vacancies on the Compensation Board, and one vacancy on DDA/BRA/TIFA.

The board passed a motion confirming the Mayor's appointment of several community members to various boards and commissions. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor.

Director Kevin Callahan discussed the replacement of the Chief's vehicle. The current vehicle was totaled after being struck in the Plainwell High School parking lot.

The council approved the purchase of a used vehicle and associated police vehicle upfitting to replace the current Chief's car for a total cost not to exceed $14,000.

Also at the meeting, water renewals Superintendent Bryan Pond discussed the purchase and use of ferric chloride at the Water Renewal plant. Alexander Chemical, the current supplier, has agreed to maintain the current price through June of 2025. The council approved the purchase of ferric chloride from Alexander Chemical as presented.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Otsego XC alumni compete at the collegiate level

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Alex Comerford wrapped up his collegiate cross country career in November at the NCAA Division 1 Championship in Madison, Wis.

And a strong finish it was, as the 2019 Otsego High School graduate finished the 10k with a time of 29:43 to place 76th, helping Syracuse University take 11th in the team standings.

While Comerford stands out as the most decorated Otsego cross country alumni, he wasn't alone in representing the program at the collegiate level.

Otsego graduate Alex Comerford is seen competing for Syracuse University this season. (Photo provided)

This season, eight other former Bulldogs joined Comerford on college rosters.

Having nine of his former runners continuing their running careers is special for Otsego cross country coach Steve Long.

"I love seeing so many of my former athletes continuing to compete in a sport that they love," he said. "They're passionate about the sport and get to continue doing that at the next level."

In addition to Comerford, five of the former Otsego runners were on rosters for Division 1 programs: Hunter Zartman (2020 OHS grad) at Michigan State University; Nick Cockerel ('22 OHS grad) at Central Michigan University; Colin Wesseldyk ('23 OHS grad) at CMU; Logan Brazee ('24 OHS grad) at CMU; and Megan Germain ('24 OHS grad) at MSU.

Chase Brown and Tristin Canales, both '22 OHS graduates, were on the roster at Division 2 Colorado Mesa, while '23 grad Pierce Bentely was on the roster at Division 3 Calvin University.

"I think what (having that many former Otsego runners competing in college) says about our program is that we're doing things right," Long said. "Mostly, it's a testament to the culture of this program and that each year the leadership continues to carry that torch of doing things the right way.

"We work hard, commit our time to shared goals and have a lot of fun. We don't expect to win each year. We savor that, though. What we do expect is that we do things the right way and trust the process. If you do things right, have a lot of fun, and know your purpose, why wouldn't you want to keep doing that?"

According to Long, each of those runners have several traits in common, while also leaving their own mark on the program.

"Each one of the kids that have run for OXC and continue on have a shared passion, work ethic and commitment to excellence," Long said. "But they're all so completely unique as well. I remember them all for different things."

Long's recollections about each of the nine runners are as follows:

— Comerford: "Alex's storied career of being at or near the front of every race for four years."

— Zartman: "Hunter's struggles in the final hundred meters, but always giving 100 percent for his team."

— Cockerel: "Nick's story of improvement and growth."

— Brown: "Chase's story of never running a full season until his senior year, but sticking with it and believing the whole time."

— Canales: "Tristin's story of not running junior year and shocking everyone when he came back."

— Wesseldyk: "Colin's story of senior-year redemption."

— Bentley: "Pierce's crazy passion for the sport."

— Brazee: "Logan's growth from her freshman year as a solid runner to a D1 recruit and the second fastest girl in school history."

— Germain: "Megan's drive and commitment to training."

Five of the those nine—Cockerel, Brown, Canales, Wesseldyk and Bentley—were part of the 2021 Otsego team that claimed the first boys state championship in the program's history.

■ see Otsego XC, Page B2

Hopkins upends Grand River Prep

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—Given the youthful makeup of his team, Hopkins boys basketball coach Jake Jewett expected some ups and downs this season.

That's exactly what he got during the first half of his team's home game against Grand River Prep on Friday, Dec. 27.

After failing to score a single point in the opening quarter, the Vikings erupted for 22 points in the second quarter on the way to a 45-36 victory.

According to Jewett, that opening half—which saw the Vikings trail 11-0 at the end of the first quarter before leading 22-15 at the intermission—was a microcosm of Hopkins' season as a whole thus far.

"We've struggled offensively so far this season, but at the same time, we show flashes of looking really good," Jewett said. "That, to me, is characteristic of a young basketball team. We need to work on our consistency and playing an entire 32 minutes at a high level.

"Being down 11-0 then scoring 22 in the second quarter is a head scratcher and can be frustrating at times. But it also shows we're capable. And I'm excited to see the growth and improvement from my group as we continue throughout the season."

The win snapped a six-game losing skid for the Vikings, who improved to 2-6.

Hopkins' Merek Zapolnik (23) battles for a rebound in the game with Grand River Prep. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

"This was a big win for us," Jewett said. "We started a freshman and two sophomores along with a junior, so for their confidence this is huge. We've been in some close games early this season and have played very competitively, but we've let some games slip.

"My message to the guys was that the wins are coming and to just stay the course."

The Vikings had a tough time staying the course at the start of the game, as Grand River Prep jumped out to the 11-0 lead in the first stanza. Kalib Stufi led the way for GRP with five points in the frame, including a triple.

At least part of Hopkins' slow start, Jewett believes, was associated with the fact that the game took place during Christmas break.

"Basketball can be a very routine and rhythm sport," he said. "There's no doubt our rhythm was off early, but I'm proud of the way the guys stayed together and bounced back."

And bounce back they did, scoring the first 16 points of the second quarter.

Junior Cruz Hitzler led the way, scoring 10 points in the frame, with six of those points coming on a pair of 3-pointers. He finished with a game-topping 14 points.

Sophomore Trent Smith added five points in the quarter, while freshman Dexter Graczyk had four.

Jewett believes the improved play on the offensive end was fueled by the effort Hopkins gave on the defensive end.

■ see Vikings win, Page B3

Hamilton's Kapenga reaches 150-win mark

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

COOPERSVILLE—Entering this season, only six Hamilton wrestlers had ever recorded 150 career wins.

A seventh member was added to that exclusive club on Saturday, Dec. 28.

With the Hawkeyes taking part in Coopersville's Military Appreciation Tournament, senior Malachi Kapenga went a perfect 5-0, pushing him past 150 victories for his stellar prep career.

Kapenga's performance helped lead Hamilton to a perfect 5-0 record and the tournament championship.

Hamilton coach Trenton Holyfield said Kapenga's milestone win was well-deserved and hard-earned.

"There is nobody on our team that works harder to improve their wrestling than Malachi," Holyfield said. "He has a unique love for the sport that I personally admire and share with him."

And while this win was special, Kapenga—a state champion as a sophomore—has more goals he's aiming for this season.

"I think it was expected that he reached this milestone this season, but he has much more to accomplish yet," Holyfield said.

Of Kapenga's five wins for the day, two came via pin and two were via forfeit. His closest match was a 19-3 technical fall over Wayland's Jake Smit.

Similarly, Hamilton's closest team win also came against Wayland. The Hawkeyes prevailed by a 45-33 score.

Pins for Hamilton in the Wayland match came from Broden VanWieren at 113 pounds, Carmine Cardova at 138, Bryce Morrison at 150, Ray Lopez at 165, Jacob Chase at 175 and Shane Dams at 215.

Chase Morrison collected Hamilton's other win over the Wildcats, earning a 13-3 major decision over Miles Nesbit at 126.

For Wayland, pins came from Rex Emmory at 132, Lane Button at 157, Trent Sikkema at 190 and Evan Noyes at 285. Jody Bitner also had a 150 tech fall over Weston Geerling at 106, while Lennon Nesbit had a 13-3 major decision over Turner Van Wieren at 120.

"Wayland is a very good team, and we knew they could give us trouble," Holyfield said. "But our wrestlers reacted well to the test. We will continue to improve and be intentional with our coaching. I am so proud of these kids and the way they competed."

Hamilton's other team wins were all blow outs: 83-0 over Boyne City, 69-5 over Kent City, 69-10 over Ravenna and 63-17 over Coopersville.

Hamilton senior Malachi Kapenga celebrates the 150th win of his career. (Photo provided)

Allegan wrestling competes at Comstock Invite

The Allegan wrestling team took a break from its Christmas break to compete in the Comstock Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 28.

The Tigers had a good showing, winning the tournament from a team standpoint, while seven Allegan grapplers claimed weight-class titles.

Allegan will be back in action on Saturday, Jan. 4, when it heads to Grand Rapids West Catholic for another tournament. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin wrestling keeps on winning

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

CLIMAX—At the Clipper Classic on Saturday, Dec. 21, the Martin/Climax-Scotts wrestling team knocked off three ranked opponents en route to going 5-0 and capturing the tournament title.

What would the Clippers do for an encore?

Win another tournament, of course.

Competing in the Jim Wade Classic at Climax-Scotts on Friday, Dec. 27, Martin racked up a 4-0 record to claim the championship trophy.

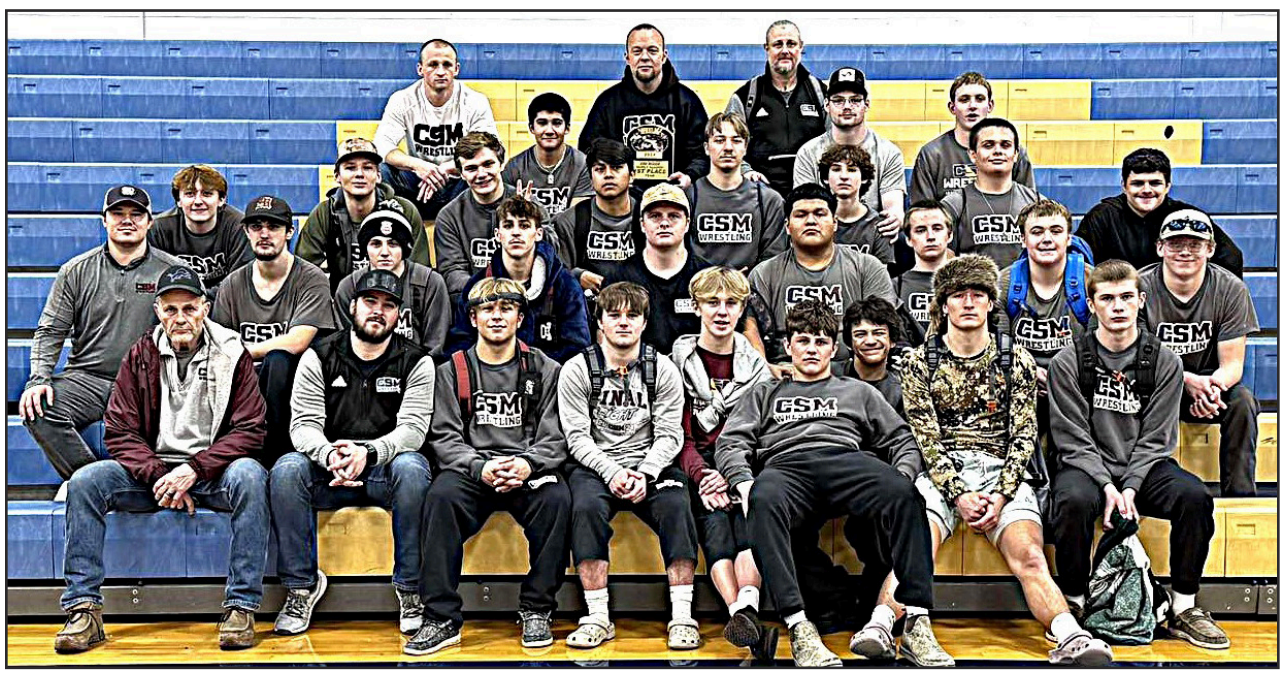
The Clippers' wins came over Bellevue (63-6), Galesburg-Augusta (65-12), Olivet (59-17) and Quincy (71-0).

Martin coach Logan Curry was, as one might expect, pleased with his team's performance the past few weeks.

"We are extremely proud of how we competed over (Christmas) break," he said. "The team has come together and have been wrestling hard for each other. It has been great to watch. We are looking to carry this momentum throughout the rest of the regular season and into the postseason."

Nine Martin wrestlers finished the day 4-0, including former state champions Logan Gilbert at 126 and Haylen Buell at 157.

Also finishing 4-0 were Jacinto Lopez (113), Cole Reitz (132), Jayce Ritchie (138), Seth Toris (144), Jack Bagwell (165), Sam Bleeker (215) and Brayan Simbron (285).



Members of the Martin wrestling team are seen after winning the Jim Wade Classic. (Photo provided)

Jaques Porlier at 120, Matthew Holmes at 150 and Jakub Tomyslak at 175 each went 3-1 for the Clippers.

"What has stood out over break is the team's commitment to each other and willingness to do whatever it takes for the team to be successful," Curry said.

And as well as the Clippers are currently performing, Curry believes the best is yet to come.

"The team is in a great place right now coming off of some big wins over some top teams in D4," he said. "We're looking forward to getting a couple of starters back in the lineup who should help solidify where we will be at the end of the year.

"Over the next few weeks, our team will be put to the test and some of the best individual tournaments in the state. We are excited to watch our guys compete against great competition."

Otsego XC ■ from Page B1

Mason Kolhoff, a 2022 graduate, and current Otsego senior Caleb Wesseldyk were the other two runners who competed at the State Finals on that team.

Kolhoff competed at Grand Rapids Community College for one year, and Caleb Wesseldyk will compete collegiately next year.

"Man, that's special," Long said of having all seven varsity runners for the state title team run in college. "I remember talking to Alex at the State Finals his senior year. He had just won the individual state championship, but the team was fifth Alex really wanted a team state championship and the highest he ever got was runner-up his freshman year.

"I told him that these boys would likely be in the top two or three teams for the next couple years, but had a real shot to win it in three years. They finished runner-up the following year, third the year after and won it three years later. It was evident that far in advance how special that group of boys was."

Part of what made that group so special, Long believes, is the leadership they received from the likes of Comerford and Zartman.

"I think this group of boys were the definition of synergy," Long said. "They grew really close and competitive and challenged each other daily. They shared a lot of time on the roads together and made each other better. I think that's part of the culture here in Otsego.

"They had a great leader in Alex to show them the way when they were younger, and they believed that they could compete with anyone. And I think when you get a group of guys and they all share the same passion for something, amazing things happen."

While Long is obviously proud of his former runners who are currently competing in college, he is equally proud of those whose competitive running career ends when they graduate from Otsego.

"What I want every one of my runners to know is that even the kids that don't go on to run collegiately are just as special to this program and to me as those that do," he said. "Each one of the kids in our program have worked hard and made their mark on OXC.

"Some continue on and hopefully take those lessons learned with them to run collegiately. But I really hope that even the ones that don't run collegiately have learned life lessons that they take with them as well.

"Each kid that comes through my program is special and has their own story. And those stories are amazing."

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Vikings win ■ from Page B1

"After the first quarter, I told the guys the shots would fall and that our effort on defense needed to be consistent," Jewett said. "We got some good looks early in the first quarter, but our shots just weren't falling. When that happens, our message to the team is always to let your defense fuel your offense.

"We don't just start playing hard on defense when our shots are going in. We can always control our defensive effort, so that must always be consistent."

GRP used a 10-6 scoring edge in the third quarter to trim Hopkins' advantage to 28-25.

But the Vikings finished the game strong, scoring 17 fourth-quarter points to pull away for the victory.

"The way we responded after the slow start shows a lot of character from my guys," Jewett said. "They didn't give up and kept at it. It shows a lot of maturity and their ability to stay together. Once we saw the ball go in the hole (in the second quarter), we regained our confidence and just started playing basketball."

Graczyk joined Hitzler in double figures with 10 points, while Smith and Merek Zapolnik added eight points each. Adam Ashby rounded out Hopkins' scoring with five points.

"Dexter is growing with confidence each game after starting the year on JV and Adam handled the ball well, giving us a spark on defense in some quality minutes."

The Vikings have another game scheduled during Christmas break, as they'll square off with Godwin Heights in the start of OK Silver play on Thursday, Jan. 2. The game will be played at Van Andel Arena.

Cruz Hitzler (5) led Hopkins with 14 points against GRP. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Jan. 5, 1950

Blind evangelist to speak here Sunday: The Rev. Clyde Rothrick, blind evangelist, will tell his life story at the Methodist Church next Sunday at 11 a.m.

He will have with him on the platform his Braille Bible, Braille writer, slate, stylus and other things including his giant English Saint Bernard leader dog "Major." This dog will demonstrate his keenness as he guides his master from the platform to the door and back again.

Rev. Rothrick tells in an interesting manner how he lost his sight when a young man in the west. He says, "There is no such word as 'can't' within the realm of reason, for the man who walks and talks with God."

The coming of Rev. Rothrick next Sunday is to demonstrate that we "walk by faith, not by sight," and especially "our faith in the Bible," according to the Rev. Alfred Halsted, pastor.

Jan. 2, 1975

Tasha's bubbly from first Christmas: Tasha Evelyn Nykerk is so happy about living in the United States, experiencing her first Christmas, and having a family to love her that her talk is a mixture of understandable English and rapid staccato Korean.

Tasha is the adopted daughter of Marlene and Floyd Nykerk of Hamilton, who picked her up at O'Hare International Airport three months ago after waiting 16 months to find out who they had worked so hard to adopt. The almost five-year-old didn't know that she would be experiencing her first Christmas so soon.

"She wanted to open up everyone else's presents," her mother said as Tasha Evelyn scurried around the living room holding her "Rub-a-Dub" doll and trying to say everything on her mind.

The Hamilton couple first decided to adopt a Korean child last May, after giving it much thought. They have two sons, Marc, 16, and Jeff, 13, and they are 38 and 40 years old, respectively. Despite what is assumed by some to be too old an age to adopt or start a new family, the Nykerks still felt they wanted to adopt.

Jan. 6, 2000

Polderman receives black-belt certification: Scott Polderman, 27, of Otsego became a newly certified fourth-degree black belt master instructor of Tae Kwon Do, making him the youngest certified black belt master in the state of Michigan.

With a glint in his eye and a big smile on his face, Polderman siad he was extremely happy and proud about his new certification after perfecting his art for more than 17 years.

Polderman, owner and chief instructor of USA Tae Kwon Do in Otsego, will join about 100 to 150 other certified black belt masters in Michigan.

He began learning Tae Kwon Do at age 10 with the encouragement of his parents. Polderman has won numerous titles, such as State Heavy Weight Gold Medalist in 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1996. The victory in Michigan moved Polderman to the national competition where he was the National Champion in 1996. He also placed second that year at the National Championship in forms, a pattern of movements on the floor, and was in the top 16 for fighting.

Polderman's mentor and primary instructor was fifth-degree black belt Master M'Hammed Bouabdellaoui of USA Tae Kwon Do in Kalamazoo.

According to Polderman, Tae Kwon Do is a way of life for him and not just a sport. It is the way through which he sees the world.

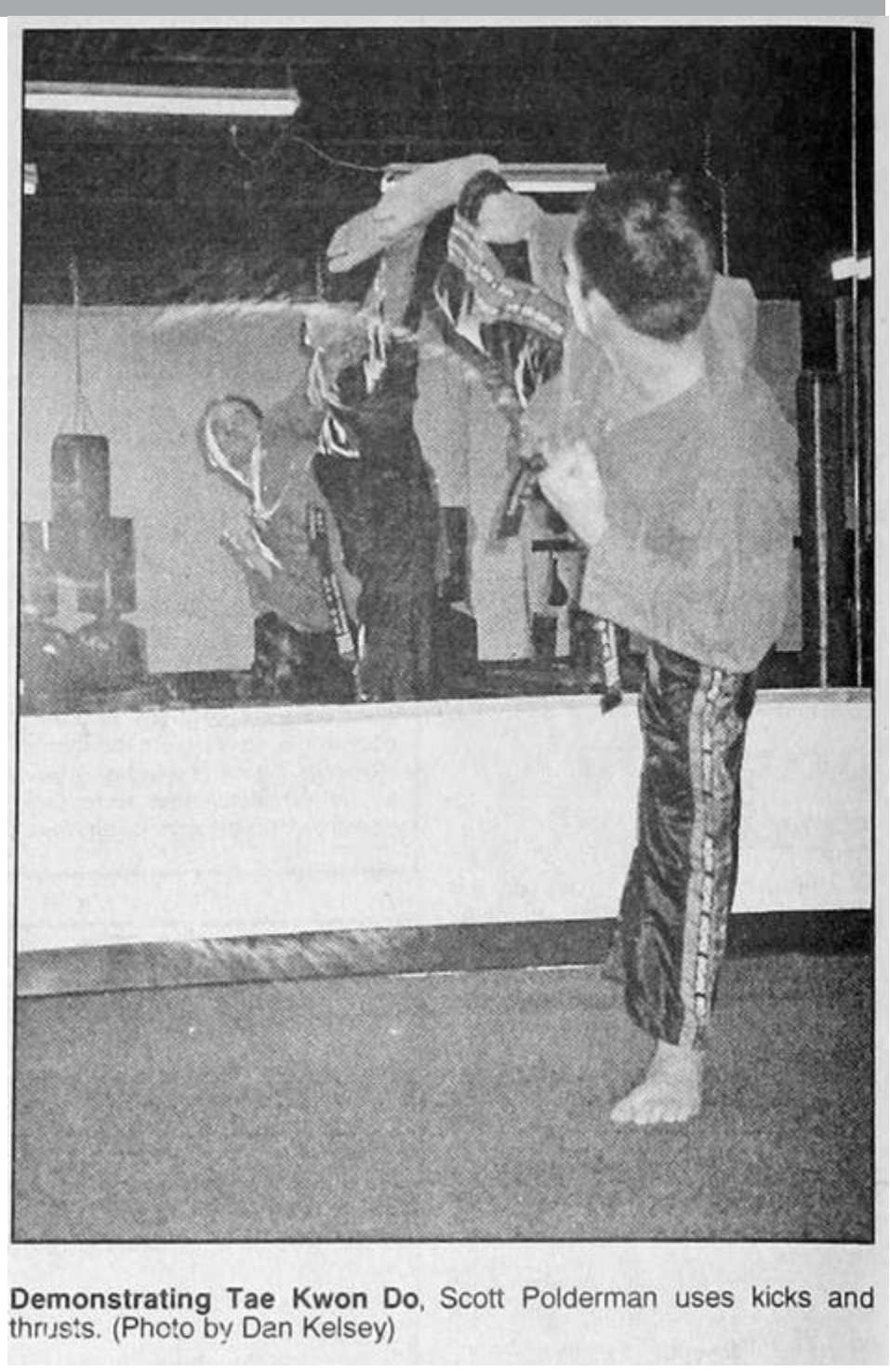
Tae Kwon Do, meaning the way of the hand and foot, is a style of martial arts that focuses on kicks and thrusts. IT began almost 1,000 years ago in China and was designed to build character and to provide self-defense.

Jan. 2, 2020

Plainwell alumni game honors Beier: When Tim Rieman came to Plainwell High School in 1996 to teach and coach the varsity boys basketball team, he quickly found a mentor in Glenn Beier.

"I met Glenn soon after I arrived in Plainwell," Rieman said. "He coached the varsity team in the '80s and was very helpful in getting me acclimated to the Wolverine Conference."

That relationship only grew stronger as time passed, as evidenced by the fact that, years later, Beier played an instrumental role in bringing Rieman back into the coaching ranks at Plainwell



Demonstrating Tae Kwon Do, Scott Polderman uses kicks and thrusts. (Photo by Dan Kelsey)

"Glenn was the biggest reason I came back to coach at Plainwell," Rieman said. "I was coaching the girls program at Portage Northern when the Plainwell (girls basketball) job opened up. I was very happy coaching in Portage, but when Glenn and Roger Salinas called to ask me to coach with them, I couldn't pass it up."

Rieman also couldn't pass up the opportunity to honor Beier, who passed away in 2015. And what better way to honor Beier—a lifelong sports enthusiast who was still serving as coach of the Plainwell girls cross country and girls JV basketball teams at the time of his death—than through an athletic event?

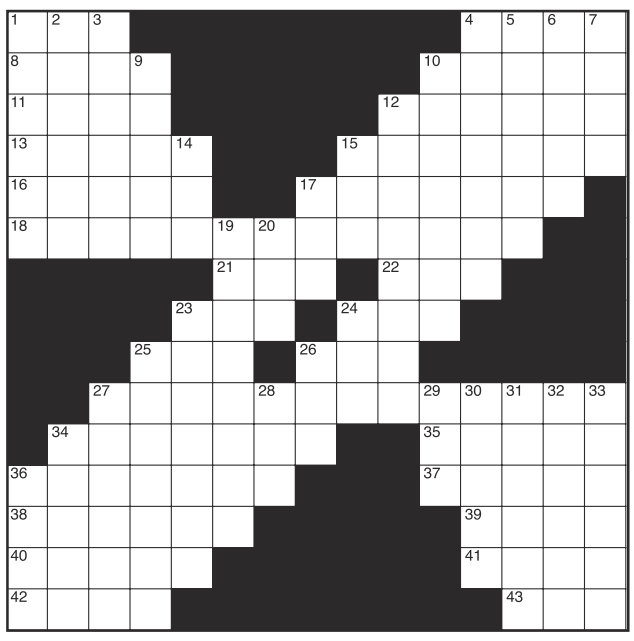
Taking place on Thursday, Dec. 26, the second Plainwell Alumni Basketball Game raised nearly $1,000 for the Gleen Beier Scholarship Fund.

"It was a great night of fellowship and an opportunity to honor a special man who meant a lot to a lot of people," Rieman said.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Spunky from her first Christmas and curious about that strange contraption the photographer is holding, Tasha Nykerk is right at home in her new Hamilton residence. Her mother, Marlene, on the left and her father, Floyd, on the right say they couldn't have hoped for a better present and are quite happy to adopt Tasha. She's happy, too, but her Korean accent makes a person listen closely for the translation.

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Americans' 'uncle'
4. Chair
8. Ancient kingdom
10. Egyptian city
11. Alaskan glacier
12. One from Somalia
13. Ancient alphabets
15. Relating to vocabulary
16. Small mongrels
17. Natural settings
18. Weekend entertainments
21. Line from which light seemingly streams
22. Your own private code
23. Swiss river
24. Satisfaction
25. A person's brother or sister
26. Folk singer DiFranco
27. The Blonde Bombshell
34. Kids' school project
35. Bluish greens
36. Classifying
37. Cube-shaped
38. Choo-choos
39. Indian religious god of dissolution
40. French department
41. Leak into gradually
42. Foundation
43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Counterbalancing debt
2. In slow tempo
3. Glamorous city
4. Japanese lute
5. Makes law
6. Informative book
7. Animal's body part
9. American playwright
10. Blood poisoning
12. Angels
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
15. Written account
17. Unwelcome pest
19. Saddle horses
20. Type of gibbon
23. Delta is one
24. NE Massachusetts cape
25. Soup cracker
26. Yes vote
27. Muddy ground
28. Physics apparatus (abbr.)
29. Type of drug
30. German city
31. Animal disease
32. Martini ingredients
33. Get away
34. Spanish municipality
36. Thrust a knife into

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Dec. 18 and Dec. 24:

BETHANY CAROL PIRMAN, Plainwell, and **SABRINA MARIE VANAUKER**, Plainwell

ERIKA LYNN DORDON, Holland, and **NICOLE HOPE TERHAAR**, Holland

EMILY GRACE CHAPPELL, Holland, and **JEREMY JASON COMTOIS**, Holland

ALEXANDRIA LYNN RISTON, martin, and **AUSTIN KURT KROMROY**, Martin

JAMES JOHN NARDIN, Wayland, and **JACQUELINE RENA DULL**, Shelby, OH

JOHN HENRY SCHOONMAKER, Fort Wayne, IN, and **NANCY MARIE XENOS**, Otsego

ALEXANDER RAY CHAVIS, Pullman, and **SKYE MARIE NICOLE TODD**, Pullman

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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				5	9			
	2	1						
		5		3		2		
	3			1	5			8
			6	8		3		
							7	
					6		8	
			5				1	4
2	8					9		3

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure Sale
LENNON MILLER PLC IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT (269) 381-8844 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.
MORTGAGE SALE - Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Saugie Sista 1, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company, Mortgagor, unto Consumers Credit Union, on May 28, 2024, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Allegan, and State of Michigan on May 30, 2024, in Liber 4946 Page 339 of Allegan County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid, at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of $539,364.40.
And no suit or proceeding at law or in equity have been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage or any part thereof. Now, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, and pursuant to the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. local time, said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale at public auction, to the highest bidder or bidders, for cash at the Allegan County Courthouse, Allegan, Michigan, that being the place where the Circuit Court for the County of Allegan, is held, of the premises described in said mortgage, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay the amount due, as aforesaid on said mortgage, with interest thereon at 9.75% and all legal costs, charges and expenses, including the attorney fee allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises, which said premises are situated in the City of Saugatuck, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, described as follows:
The East 41 feet of Lot 104, Kalamazoo Plat, according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 111 of Plats, Page 551.
Parcel ID No.: 03-57-300-105-00;
Which has the address of 118 Hoffman St, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453 MI.
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241, in which case the redemption period shall be 1 month, or under MCL 600.324la 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.324la(b) notice, whichever is later, or extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238 If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 600 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest.
Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Attorney Stephen C. Peurach
LENNON MILLER PLC
151 S. Rose Street, Suite 900
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 381-8844
12-12 1-2

STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN Case No. 24-69531-CH, Hon. Matthew Antkoviak.
J.B. M-40 Properties, LLC, Plaintiff, v. David Barker and Barker Farms, LLC, Defendants. Mark H. Zietlow, Attorney for Plaintiff, 388 Garden Avenue, Suite 140, Holland, MI 49424 616-392-4100.
NOTICE OF FILED COMPLAINT. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff J.B. M-40 Properties, LLC, has filed a lawsuit against David Barker and Barker Farms LLC to invalidate a Notice of Interest that was recorded against Plaintiff's property. An Order Regarding Alternate Service was entered on November 25, 2024. The Order Regarding Alternate Service states that service of the summons and complaint, and a copy of this Order, shall be made by publication in the Allegan County News for 3 consecutive weeks per MCR 2.106(D).
Date: 12/__/2024. Mark H. Zietlow, Attorney for Plaintiff, 388 Garden Avenue, Suite 140, Holland, MI 49424 616-392-4100.
12-19 1-2

Order for Service By
Publication/Posting and
Notice of Action
State of Michigan
48th Judicial Circuit Court
for the County of Allegan
Case No. 24-69719-CH
Hon. Matthew Antkoviak
Court Address: 113 Chestnut St.
Allegan, MI 49010
JUAN CISNEROS and
JUAN CISNEROS, JR.,
Plaintiffs.
v
ALLEGAN COUNTY TREASURER
and TRUDE RADKE, an individual, and any unknown heirs, successors
and assigns, and all unknown persons having an interest in the subject property, jointly and severally,
Defendants.
Jacob B. Greendyk (P85544)
David, Wierenga & Lauka, P.C.
99 Monroe Ave NW Ste 1210
Grand Rapids MI 49503
616-454-3883
Plaintiffs' Attorney
To: Trude Radke, an individual, and any unknown heirs, successors and assigns, and all unknown persons having an interest in the subject property
IT IS ORDERED:
1.You are being sued in this court by the plaintiffs to quiet title to property located at 3579 113th Avenue, Allegan, Michigan, legally described as follows:
A parcel of land located in Section 31, Town 2 North, Range 13 West, described as: Commencing 530 feet East of the West 1/4 post of Section 31, as to the point of beginning; thence East 110 feet; thence North 95 feet; thence West 110 feet; thence South 95 feet to the point of beginning.
Parcel No.: 03-01-031-029-00
You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before 28 days after Notice first appears in the newspaper. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2.A copy of this order shall be published once each week in The Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.
Dated: 12/12/24
12-19 1-2

MORTGAGE SALE - Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, made by Anthony Lottner and LeeAnn Lottner, husband and wife, Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc (MERS) as nominee for Mortgage 1 Incorporated dba Michigan Mortgage, Mortgagee, dated the 10th day of August, 2021 and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for The County of Allegan and State of Michigan, on the 12th day of August, 2021 in Liber 4657 of Allegan County Records, page 755, said Mortgage having been assigned to Servbank, SB on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Four and 29/100 ($177,374.29). Notice of Foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM o'clock Local Time on the 16th day of January, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The bid may include interest thereon at 3.99000 per annum and all legal costs, charges, and expenses, including the attorney fees allowed by law, and also any sum or sums which may be paid by the undersigned, necessary to protect its interest in the premises. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land, including any and all structures, and homes, manufactured or otherwise, located thereon, situated in the TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and described as follows, to wit: LOTS 148 AND LOT 149 IN ASPEN ACRES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN LIBER 9 OF PLATS, PAGE 48, ALLEGAN COUNTY RECORDS Commonly known as 1778 MACDOUGALL DR, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed, except that in the event that the property is determined to be abandoned pursuant to MCLA 600.3241a, the property may be redeemed 30 days after the foreclosure sale or when the time to provide the notice required by the statute expires, whichever is later. Pursuant to MCLA 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, of if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 12/19/2024 Servbank, SB Mortgagee
HLADIK, ONORATO & FEDERMAN, LLP Athena Aitas (P61824) Attorney for Servicer 3290 West Big Beaver Road, Suite 117 Troy, MI 48084 (248)362-2600 AFB FHA LOTTNER - 24-03180
1548607
(12-19)(01-09)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Matthew Eldean and Jami Eldean, husband and wife and Matthew Eldean, Trustee of the Matthew Eldean Trust Dated 12/19/2002
Original Mortgagee: Lake Michigan Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2015
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 23, 2015
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $294,999.91
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Laketown, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 Corner of said Section 2; thence South 89 degrees 16 minutes 58 seconds East 2649.64 feet along the North line of said Southwest 1/4 to the Central 1/4 Corner of said Section 2; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds West 805.00 feet along the East line of said Southwest 1/4 to the place of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds West 366.34 feet along said East line; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 50 seconds West 578.31 feet; thence Northwesterly 67.99 feet along the arc of a 60.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears North 34 degrees 18 minutes 26 seconds West 64.41 feet; thence Northwesterly 46.17 feet along the arc of a 50.00 foot radius curve to the right, the chord of which bears North 40 degrees 19 minutes 03 seconds West 44.54 feet; thence Northwesterly 34.55 feet along the arc of a 383.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears North 16 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds West 34.54 feet; thence North 69 degrees 24 minutes 38 seconds East 698.15 feet to the place of beginning, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 4657 Arbor Trl, Holland, MI 49423-8901
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 2, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549014
(01-02)(01-23)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, February 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by The Edward A Korson, Single, Living Trust, Dated 08/24/1999 to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, its successors and assigns , Mortgagee, dated May 14, 2021, and recorded on September 7, 2021, in Liber 4667, Page 421, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 03, 2024 and recorded December 11, 2024 by Document Number: 2024018338, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Fifty-Three and 83/100 ($270,653.83) including interest at the rate of 2.99000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Saugatuck, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Unit 1, Brookwood Estates, according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 1302, Page 123, Allegan County Records, as amended, and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No 46, together with rights in the General Common Elements and the Limited Common Elements as shown on the Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. Commonly known as: 3373 CLEARVIEW LN, SAUGATUCK, MI 49453 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: December 26, 2024 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 24MI00809-1
(12-26)(01-16)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on February 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Matthew Eldean and Jami Eldean, husband and wife and Matthew Eldean, Trustee of the Matthew Eldean Trust Dated 12/19/2002
Original Mortgagee: Lake Michigan Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2015
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 23, 2015
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $294,999.91
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Laketown, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 4 North, Range 16 West, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the West 1/4 Corner of said Section 2; thence South 89 degrees 16 minutes 58 seconds East 2649.64 feet along the North line of said Southwest 1/4 to the Central 1/4 Corner of said Section 2; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds West 805.00 feet along the East line of said Southwest 1/4 to the place of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 03 minutes 10 seconds West 366.34 feet along said East line; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 50 seconds West 578.31 feet; thence Northwesterly 67.99 feet along the arc of a 60.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears North 34 degrees 18 minutes 26 seconds West 64.41 feet; thence Northwesterly 46.17 feet along the arc of a 50.00 foot radius curve to the right, the chord of which bears North 40 degrees 19 minutes 03 seconds West 44.54 feet; thence Northwesterly 34.55 feet along the arc of a 383.00 foot radius curve to the left, the chord of which bears North 16 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds West 34.54 feet; thence North 69 degrees 24 minutes 38 seconds East 698.15 feet to the place of beginning, Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan.
Common street address (if any): 4657 Arbor Trl, Holland, MI 49423-8901
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: January 2, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1549014
(01-02)(01-23)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The decedent, Joseph Martin Vondrash, born on September 8, 1933, and deceased on November 7, 2024, resided at 3836 122nd Allegan, Michigan 49010. The County of Allegan, prior to his death.
There is no probate estate for the decedent, and therefore no Personal Representative to whom Letters of Authority have been issue. Decedent was the Settlor of the revocable trust agreement, The Vondrash Family Trust dated September 18, 2024, as amended.
The Trust is designated to be administer, allocate and distribute the trust property on Settlor death by Victoria Montgomery the successor trustee.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the above described Trust will be forever barred unless presented within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.
January 2, 2025
Victoria Montgomery
3407 Monroe Road
Allegan, MI 49010

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE SALE
WHEREAS, on December 21, 2012, a certain Mortgage was executed by Floyd Bowlby, Trustee of the Floyd Bowlby Trust U/A/D August 29, 2009 as mortgagor in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc (MERS) as nominee for American Advisors Group as mortgagee, and was recorded on January 9, 2013, in Liber 3694, on Page 727, in the Register of Deeds, Allegan County, Michigan; and
WHEREAS, the Mortgage was insured by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the Secretary) pursuant to the National Housing Act for the purpose of providing single family housing; and
WHEREAS, the mortgage is now held by the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, through mesne assignments as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 20, 2020, and recorded on September 21, 2020, in Liber 4512 on Page 987.
WHEREAS, the mortgage at Paragraph (9)(b)(i) states that Lender may require immediate payment in full of all sums secured by this Security Instrument if the property ceases to be the principal residence of a borrower for reasons other than death and the property is not the principal residence of at least one other Borrower; and
WHEREAS, the entire amount delinquent as of December 9, 2024 is $90,977.65; and
WHEREAS, by virtue of this default, the Secretary has declared the entire amount of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage to be immediately due and payable;
NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to powers vested in me by the Single Family Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1994, 12 U.S.C. 3751 et seq., by 24 CFR part 27, subpart B, and by the Secretary's designation of me as Foreclosure Commissioner, recorded on August 2, 2024 in Book 4962, Page 660.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 9:00 am local time, the real property located in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder:
Lot 7, River Grove Subdivision, in the Northwest quarter of Section 21 and the Northeast quarter of Section 20, Town 1 North, Range 12 West, Otsego Township, Allegan County Michigan. Excepting Liens and Conveyances affecting right of way in Liber 299 Deeds, on Page 505.
Commonly known as: 552 19th St, Otsego, MI 49078
Tax Parcel ID# 17-480-007-00
The sale will be held at Allegan County Courthouse, which is located at 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010.
The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may bid any amount up to and including the total debt at the date as of the date of the sale, plus any and all amounts recoverable under the provision of the mortgage.
There will be no proration of taxes, rents or other income or liabilities, except that the
purchaser will pay, at or before closing, his prorata share of any real estate taxes that have been paid by the Secretary to the date of the foreclosure sale.
When making their bids, all bidders except the Secretary must submit a deposit totaling 10% of the successful bid the form of a certified check or cashier's check made payable to Secretary of HUD. A deposit need not accompany each oral bid. If the successful bid is oral, a deposit of 10% must be presented before the bidding is closed. The deposit is nonrefundable. The remainder of the purchase price must be delivered within 30 days of the sale or at such other time as the Secretary may determine for good cause shown, time being of the essence. This amount, like the bid deposits, must be delivered in the form of a certified or cashier's check. If the Secretary is the highest bidder, he need not pay the bid amount in cash. The successful bidder will pay all conveying fees, all real estate and other taxes that are due on or after the delivery date of the remainder of the payment and all other costs associated with the transfer of title. At the conclusion of the sale, the deposits of the unsuccessful bidders will be returned to them.
The Secretary may grant an extension of time within which to deliver the remainder of the payment. All extensions will be for 15-day increments for a fee of $500.00, paid in advance. The extension fee shall be in the form of a certified or cashier's check made payable to the Secretary of HUD. If the high bidder closes the sale prior to the expiration of any extension period, the unused portion of the extension fee shall be applied toward the amount due.
If the high bidder is unable to close the sale within the required period, or within any extensions of time granted by the Secretary, the high bidder may be required to forfeit the cash deposit or, at the election of the foreclosure commissioner after consultation with the HUD representative, will be liable to HUD for any costs incurred as a result of such failure. The Commissioner may, at the direction of the HUD representative, offer the property to the second highest bidder for an amount equal to the highest price offered by that bidder.
There is no right of redemption, or right of possession based upon a right of redemption, in the mortgagor or others subsequent to a foreclosure completed pursuant to the Act. Therefore, the Foreclosure Commissioner will issue a Deed to the purchaser(s) upon receipt of the entire purchase price in accordance with the terms of the sale as provided herein. HUD does not guarantee that the property will be vacant.
The scheduled foreclosure sale shall be cancelled or adjourned if it is established, by documented written application of the mortgagor to the Foreclosure Commissioner not less than 3 days before the date of sale, or otherwise, that the default or defaults upon which the foreclosure is based did not exist at the time of service of this notice of default and foreclosure sale.
The mortgage cannot be "reinstated" prior to the sale, as the event accelerating the loan was not a default in payments. Payment of the entire outstanding balance of the mortgage debt is required to stop the foreclosure. The "outstanding balance" includes amounts that would be due under the mortgage agreement if payments under the mortgage had not been accelerated, including publication costs, posting costs and postage expenses incurred in giving notice, mileage by the most reasonable road distance for posting notices, reasonable and customary costs incurred for title and lien record searches, the necessary out-of-pocket costs incurred by the Foreclosure Commissioner for recording documents, a commission for the Foreclosure and all other costs incurred in connection with the foreclosure prior to the sale.
Date: _12/23/2024
Athena J. Aitas (P61824)
Foreclosure Commissioner for the United States
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
3290 W. Big Beaver, Ste .117
Troy, MI 48084
STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)
SS.
On this 23rd day of December, 2024, before me, a Notary Public in and for Oakland County, appeared Athena J. Aitas, Foreclosure Commissioner for the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to me personally known and being duly sworn did say that said instrument was signed and acknowledged the same to be her free act and deed.
Shanon Marcella, Notary Public
Oakland County, MI acting in Oakland County, MI
My Commission expires: 06/07/2027
Drafted by and when recorded return to:
Athena J. Aitas (P61824)
Hladik, Onorato & Federman, LLC
3290 W. Big Beaver, Ste. 117
Troy, MI 48084
CPL FHA Bowlby/ 24-02172
1-2 1-16

ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Trust
In the matter of the Marlene K. Ramirez Declaration of Trust established September 27, 2023
Marlene K. Ramirez was the grantor of the Trust and her date of birth was August 2, 1947.
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Marlene K. Ramirez, died November 30, 2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Ian M. Ramirez, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Jennifer A. DeYoung P55858
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
Ian M. Ramirez
6419 142nd Avenue
Holland, MI 49423
616-405-9930

CLASSIFIEDS

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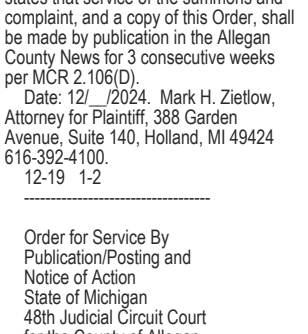

3	6	8	2	5	9	1	4	7
9	2	1	4	6	7	8	3	5
4	7	5	8	3	1	2	6	9
6	3	9	7	1	5	4	2	8
5	4	7	6	8	2	3	9	1
8	1	2	9	4	3	5	7	6
1	5	4	3	9	6	7	8	2
7	9	3	5	2	8	6	1	4
2	8	6	1	7	4	9	5	3

Misc.

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RELIGION SECTION

In the early 1930s, some of the businessmen in my hometown persuaded my uncle to buy a small county-chartered bank. When others heard the news, they thought it was a foolish investment to make during the depths of the Great Depression. He persevered, but there was nothing easy about it. However, a copy of an old painting gave him encouragement. It depicted two mule drawn wagons making the trek across the barren and rugged terrain of the Midwest. Along with the wagon were two families, obviously traveling west in hopes of a better life.

Whenever my uncle was feeling besieged by problems, he stood in front of that pictures to convince himself that if those people could face hard challenges, so could he. The bank survived and in time became part of the Marquette Bank Corporation.

No mistake about it, you and I face our own challenges, and sometimes they seem overwhelming and disheartening. Some things never change. But instead of a western painting, you and I see it on the evening news or our electronic devices. We see segments of wars around the world, natural disasters, disease and hunger, and far too much violence. Nearly always, a survivor will tell a reporter, "We survived, and we can rebuild."

History is also full of stories of people who have suffered tremendous losses and slipped to the dark side. Perhaps the best known were Jesse and Frank James. Members of their family were killed by terrorists in the Civil War, their homestead was burned, friends betrayed them; other friends died. Instead of rebuilding their lives, they became outlaws.

In First Peter, chapter 4, verses 7 - 19, the apostle writes of the dangers the early Christians were facing. He asked them to hold fast in their faith, and also warned them that the current trials and tribulations should never be used as an excuse to do evil.

Often, that is far easier said than done, and yet to accomplish anything good, we must persevere, keep the faith, and trust that Jesus will return to rescue and save his people. We must rely on the Holy Spirit as we ask for strength and courage to face the current chaos and confusion.

Rarely is anything truly easy.

Persevere, keep the faith, and know that Jesus will soon be returning to get His people out of this mess. We must turn to the Holy Spirit and ask for the strength and courage for living in this chaos and confusion, and surviving the hardships. We must also ask for strength to avoid the temptation to get revenge or do evil.

The good news is that Jesus is reminding us, "Yes you can do it. You really can. We are in this together, you and me."

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 521-7657

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
Pastor Sheri Harris
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith &
Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
Pastor Ruth Lowry 685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hamilton Christian Reformed Church
3596 47th Street, Hamilton.
phone: 269-751-8877

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Journey Family Church
514 W. Van Buren St. Gobles
628-2288
SSunday 9am and 11am
Rev. Gary Napp

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
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Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Alex Rybachek, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Unipac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

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Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan